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# THE TIMES

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INTERNATIONAL EDITION

Latest poll puts Tories ahead

## Tax deadlock as Major is put on defensive

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE two main parties were deadlocked in an inconclusive series of exchanges about taxation yesterday.

John Major refused to promise that a Conservative government would not increase the overall burden of direct and indirect tax and Neil Kinnock called for the resignation of the Chancellor over reports that the Tories' spending plans would not be covered by its tax receipts.

The prime minister denied the reports and ruled out any VAT increase by the next Tory government. However, the Labour leader said the VAT cut had been let out of the bag. "It has always been clear that if they were re-elected the Conservatives would have to raise VAT. It is the only way that their sums can begin to add up," Paddy

Matthew Parris  
regrets the passing  
of dirty tricks. Full  
coverage 7-11

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if reelected nationwide on a uniform swing. The Mori poll also found the Tories rated only 2 per cent better than Labour at running the economy, traditionally an area where the Conservatives score highly.

Government hopes of economic recovery were boosted by a big rise in both exports and imports, but official figures published yesterday still showed the monthly deficit on visible trade was stuck above £1 billion last month.

The current account, which encompasses trade in visible goods and invisibles, such as banking, insurance and shipping, showed a deficit of £750 million last month and the deficit for January was revised up to £688 million. Share prices fell sharply after the announcement as the City had expected the deficit to be £450 million.

By the close of trading, however, the FT-SE100 index of leading shares had recouped some of its losses to stand at 2,441.0, down 15.6. The pound gained ground against the mark, finishing more than a quarter pfennig higher at DM2.8646.

After a day in which the Conservative leader was forced on to the defensive by Labour's taxation attacks and trade figures that did not match City expectations, a Harris opinion poll for today's *Daily Express* gave the Tories a five-point lead over Labour. The survey of 1,077 people, conducted yesterday and on Sunday, measured Tory support at 43 per cent, with Labour on 38 per cent, the Liberal Democrats on 15 per cent and others on 4 per cent.

Ministers were hoping that the Harris findings were the first indication that their campaign on Labour's tax policies was beginning to bear fruit, but Labour argued last night that Harris' findings were consistently out of line with other pollsters.

Their results were at odds with a Mori poll of ten marginal seats for Yorkshire Television which found a swing to Labour of 8.5 per cent, enough to assure Mr Kinnock of a governing majority

Continued on page 18, col 6

### Killer wife is freed

A woman who drugged her husband's stir-fry, beat him to death with a rolling pin and then buried him in the back garden was cleared of murder. She was put on probation for manslaughter. Luton crown court had been told that June Scotland had suffered years of mental torture from her husband, who had also sexually abused their daughter. As she left the court she shouted: "I feel great." ..... Page 3

### Cricket date

BSkyB, which has exclusive rights to screen the cricket world cup, is to allow BBC1 to show highlights of tomorrow morning's final between England and Pakistan tomorrow morning. They will be shown on *Sportsnight*, which begins at 10pm ..... Page 9

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### Cancer survey

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund is to undertake the world's biggest study to determine whether there is a link between the pill or hormone replacement therapy and breast cancer. The charity will coordinate information gathered from 40 studies involving more than 60,000 women..... Page 3

### Black anger

The first round of power sharing negotiations in the wake of South Africa's referendum broke down when black leaders rejected a limited advisory role in an interim government. They accused President de Klerk of renegeing on a promise to form a multiracial cabinet..... Page 13

### Libyan offer

Libya has offered to hand over the two men suspected of the Lockerbie bombing to the Arab League, in line with a suggestion from the United Nations secretary-general..... Page 13

## British Gas chief gets 17.6% pay rise

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE British Gas chairman Robert Evans accepted a 17.6 per cent pay rise, to £45,222, last year despite the criticism of his 66 per cent increase in 1990.

The increase swiftly rekindled the dispute over big pay rises for executives in former state industries and made it a general election issue last night. John Major issued a rebuke, saying that although pay levels must be a matter for the firms concerned, chairmen "should exercise leadership in questions of pay".

At the same time privatised industry chiefs were challenged to publish details of their salaries and perks before the election.

The rise was criticised by consumer groups and the trade unions and Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, alleged that the true price of privatisation



"excess" was becoming clearer by the day. The latest rise, which is the first reported by a privatised utility this year, included a 6.6 per cent increase in

Continued on page 18, col 4

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## Millionaires win, doctors lose, with Labour

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

A HEADTEACHER or doctor earning £40,000 a year would pay more in additional taxes to a Labour government than a millionaire living on a private income of £100,000. This seeming anomaly results from a last-minute decision by John Smith to load his main tax burdens onto middle-class employees, while protecting people on private incomes and the self-employed.

Many of the TV personalities, barristers and company directors who have backed Labour would therefore pay relatively little, while the senior public servants and middle managers, perceived by Labour strategists as irredeemably Conservative voters, would be the hardest hit.

The £40,000 headteacher would pay an extra £1,700 a year as a result

of Mr Smith's proposals. A married millionaire, with £2 million invested in the stock market to produce a dividend income of £100,000, would pay only £1,680 extra, even if he does not take advantage of the tax shelters Labour has pledged to retain for the life of the next parliament. By putting part of their capital into personal equity plans and taking advantage of capital gains tax allowances, the millionaire family could reduce their tax liability by a further £13,000 annually. The total cost to them of Mr Smith's proposals would be £400.

There are two principal reasons for the contrast in tax treatment between wealthy people living on investment incomes and the employed middle class. The first is Mr Smith's unexpected decision to exempt investment incomes from his new 9 per cent national insurance tax. Self-employed taxpayers, including most of

the highest earners in the arts and professions, would also be exempted from the new national insurance tax. For employed taxpayers, by contrast, the national insurance levy will make up the lion's share of the extra tax burden. An employee would have to earn more than £210,000, before his income taxes in the new 50p top bracket exceeded his extra national insurance contributions. A Harley Street consultant who earned £100,000 a year outside the national health service would generally pay a smaller share of his income to Labour than a GP on £40,000.

A second big difference arises from a long-standing anomaly in Britain's tax treatment of married couples. Most industrialised countries, including Germany, France and America, allow married couples to split their entire incomes between the two partners so as to take advantage of

lower tax brackets, as shown in the Times comparison of international taxes last Friday. But in Britain only investment income can be split between husband and wife. Couples enjoying investment incomes of up to £70,000 should be able to avoid Labour's higher taxes.

The self-employed can share their incomes with spouses by making them partners, or can avoid higher-rate taxes by forming companies taxed at only 25 to 33 per cent.

David Greene, senior partner of Martin Greene Rayden, an accountancy firm specialising in media and literary clients, said: "This will be the first time that earned income is taxed at a higher rate than unearned income and under a Labour government. The unfairness will be obvious to all. It will only be a matter of time before the government has to level the treatment."

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Christian Aid



Destination unknown: Labour party aides touring the West End of London in an open-top bus yesterday

## 27 die in icebound jet crash

BY JAMES BONE  
AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

INVESTIGATORS were last night trying to establish why the crew of an airliner that crashed at New York's La Guardia airport, killing 27 people, did not have the jet delayed before take-off, even though it had been standing in snow and freezing conditions for at least half an hour.

Rescuers marvelled that almost half the number of passengers aboard USAir flight 405 to Cleveland survived.

Twenty-four escaped after being hurled into the mud and shallow waters of Flushing Bay as the twin-engine Fokker F-28 tried to take off in a snowstorm. Witnesses said most of the petrol-soaked survivors waded ashore and walked about a mile to an airport terminal. Four others crawled to a motorway near by and flagged down a van for help.

The bodies of those who died were recovered from the partially submerged wreckage, some charred and still strapped into their seats. "The aircraft was just ripped apart so bad, I couldn't believe there were any," George Davenport, a police diver, said.

"The wreckage was a quarter mile, maybe a half a mile long. Everything was in flames," he said. A wing

Continued on page 18, col 2

## AA man spots Indians smuggled in by lorry

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HOME OFFICE immigration officials today will consider the future of 16 illegal Indian immigrants spotted by an AA patrolman climbing out of the back of a long-distance lorry under cover of darkness at an M4 service station near London.

The men who speak only Punjabi are likely to be returned to India. The Danish driver of the lorry has also been held by police as investigators try to discover how many immigrants and the route of the lorry. One witness suggested that as many as 30 immigrants, well-dressed and clutching baggage, climbed out from the lorry as it stood parked at the Heston service station, west of London.

The Indians are the latest group of illegal immigrants to reach Britain by hiding inside vehicles in rackets organised from Europe. Attempts are being made by the Home Office to improve detection methods at ports as restrictions on frontier controls are planned for the start of 1993.

One man being questioned told investigators that he had booked his passage with a Romanian in Germany and paid about £170 to get to Wolverhampton. Last night there was speculation that the men, aged between 20 and 42, cut their way out of the canvas sides of the lorry assuming they had reached

the destination because the vehicle had stopped.

The lorry was part of a convoy of four coming to Britain from Copenhagen with a mixed consignment of windows, cakes and confectionery. Police believe that only one lorry contained immigrants.

The convoy started off on Saturday, drove through Germany and into the Netherlands to reach the Hook of Holland.

The lorries arrived at Harwich at 6am on Sunday on a Dutch ferry. Later that night they were parked at the service station when the immigrants tried to leave.

Steve Lawrence, an AA night patrolman, was in the lorry park when he heard chattering noises. He said: "I was just opening up my flask of coffee when I heard this excited chattering. I looked up and saw them coming out of the back of a lorry parked in front of me. I couldn't comprehend what was happening at first. They were filing out of the back of the lorry like a load of parrots.

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**Police fear border control changes**

## Immigrants risk all as human cargo dispatched to UK

ILLEGAL immigrants desperate to enter Britain in hope of a better life are increasingly being smuggled in as human cargo, hidden in the back of juggernauts or strapped to the underframes of lorries.

The upsurge is causing concern among officials at the Home Office and senior police officers who fear that the relaxation of EC border controls next year will bring even greater growth in the illicit trade.

Even if the human cargo manages to evade the checks at Britain's east and south coast ports, immigration officers have extended their surveillance to lorry parks outside the docks and carry out operations in key British cities where illegal immigrants are suspected to gather.

Last year during raids for illegal immigrants, 400 people were found to have been smuggled into the UK compared with 160 in 1990. A total of 6,000 people were found after entry to have breached immigration laws, including those who had overstayed, were working without permission and had entered the country by deception.

The arrest of sixteen Indians at Heston service area on the M4 west of London is the latest in a series of incidents in which illegal immigrants have been caught many miles from their port of entry. In January eight were held at Maidstone in Kent after immigration officers watching a car park saw four men leave a trailer. Four more were hiding inside.

A month earlier, a Belgian lorry driver admitted in court that he had been promised £84 to take four illegal immigrants across the channel. They had hidden behind crates of ink and he dropped them at Menbury service station on the M4.

In at least three cases immi-

**Stewart Tendler**  
looks at the growth in smuggling immigrants in the light of yesterday's arrests on the M4

gled into Britain in lorries from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Turkey. So far, there has been little evidence that people from eastern Europe and the Magreb countries of North Africa are being smuggled in aboard lorries.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that each person pays between £1,000 and £3,000 for the entire trip, which usually involves those from the Indian sub-continent flying to Germany before being transported across Europe to channel ports such as the Hook of Holland, Ostend, Zeebrugge and Rostock and then across to ports like Harwich and Dover.

The drive across Europe takes advantage of cursory border checks between EC countries with drivers offered up to £1,000 cash to smuggle illegals into Britain.

It is suspected that illegal immigrants from outside western Europe are exploiting the German constitution, which allows all asylum seekers a safe haven. Once in the EC, bogus refugees then pay smugglers to be taken to Britain.

As part of efforts to combat smuggling, immigration officers conduct sudden purges at ports in which every lorry arriving from the continent is checked. In some cases officers in unmarked cars watch other inland points close to the ports.

They have also worked with the metropolitan police in bringing to court 16 couriers who have been convicted and sentenced to up to two years in prison. In the UK, immigration officers have been involved in a series of high profile swoops aimed at detaining suspected illegal immigrants. Last year 74 foreigners were held in a raid on a south London factory.

In all the big cities of Punjab, travel agents offering fraudulent visas are general-

ly well known. In the lawless atmosphere, with police easily bribed, there is no serious prospect of legal action.

Italian visas used to be the easiest to obtain; once there, illegal immigrants were put in contact with middle-men who would smuggle them into Britain. Italy has tightened its visa regulations, however, and alternative routes are being constantly tested.

For a time, eastern Europe offered new hope to illegal immigrants, but visa regulations have proved extremely irksome. Businessmen are able to obtain visas reasonably easily, but tourists find it hard to persuade officials that they are not planning to disappear into an illegal immigration network for transportation to western Europe.

Punjabis are the most persistent would-be illegal immigrants because they want to escape the violence of



Held for questioning: two police officers escorting one of 16 men discovered leaving a lorry on the M4

## Lawless Punjab offers easy way out

PUNJABIS trying to enter Britain illegally often use an easily traced network of crooks specialising in fraudulent passports and visas, many of them operating behind the facade of legitimate travel agencies.

The going rate for a British visa is 150,000 rupees (£3,000), a vast amount by local standards. Only American visas cost more—usually around 200,000 rupees. The visas are usually obtained from stolen passports, or passports sold to visa touts and then reported as lost.

In all the big cities of Punjab, travel agents offering fraudulent visas are general-

ly well known. Anybody with money is a target for kidnapping and extortion rackets; it is those people who are most desperate to leave, and who have the means.

Visa designs are nowadays usually too complex to be copied, and in some countries such as America and Australia can be instantly checked by scanners at airport immigration desks. A visa taken from a stolen passport would be instantly identified. "The cost of false visas has risen substantially, in line with the increased difficulties involved," a travel agent with close contacts with the racket said.

## Curfews in Ulster rejected

The prime minister has ruled out several radical changes in security policy in Northern Ireland, including curfews, identity cards and the effective sealing of the border (Edward Gorman writes).

In a written reply to Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, John Major said that while he was not able to agree with many of Mr Paisley's ideas, he intends to hold further talks with him if returned to power.

A spokesman for Mr Paisley said that Mr Major's tone and detailed consideration of the points put to him was a sign that he was taking the party's views seriously.

## Skydive charge

Two organisers of a parachuting display event at Tilstock, in Shropshire, last August at which John Ward, aged 42, a skydiver of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, fell 12,000ft to his death, have been jointly charged with manslaughter. Police said that the pair were charged after extensive investigations and would not be identified until they appeared before Whitchurch magistrates on Monday.

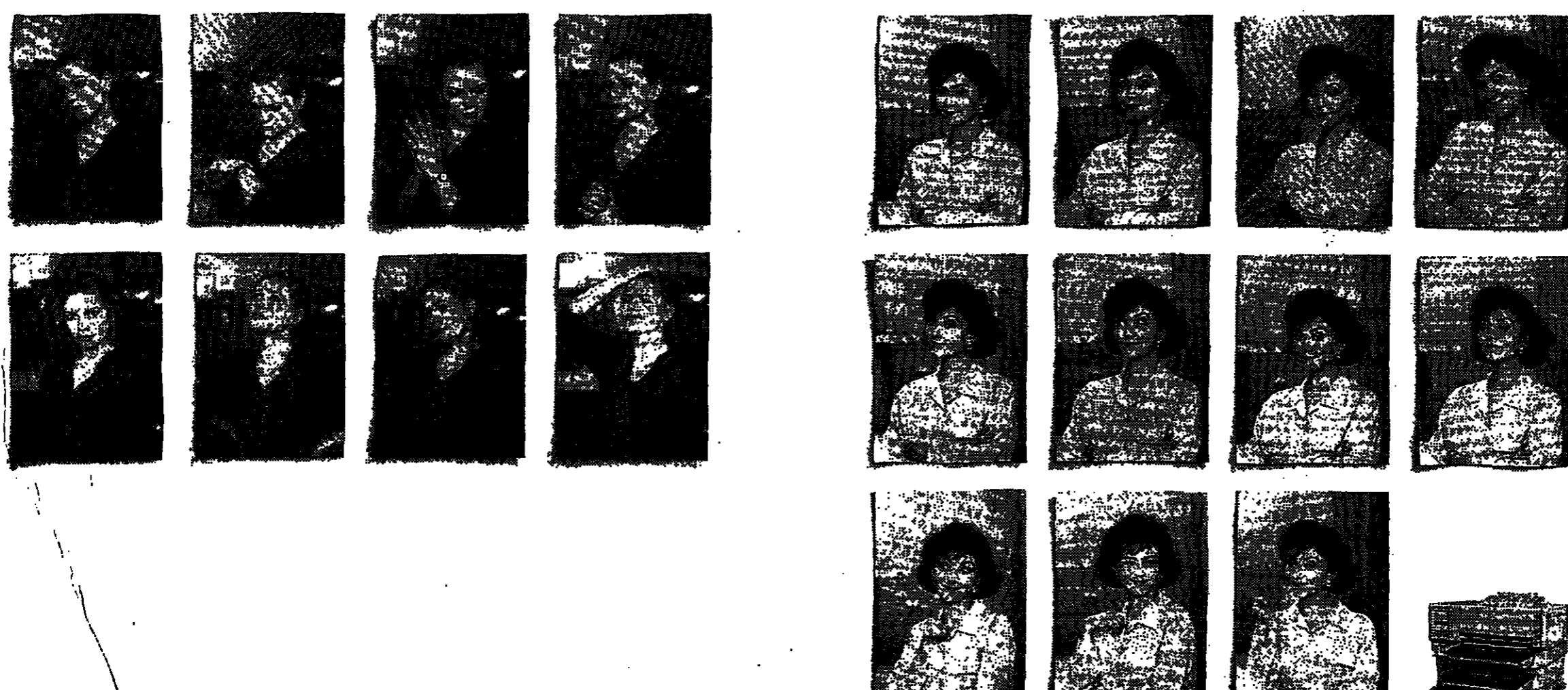
## Voyager fined

A sailor who led a 1,200-mile voyage from Whitby to the Arctic Circle was fined £400 with £600 costs by Teesside crown court for breaching maritime law. Jack Lamman, aged 55, of Whitby, sailed the 62-year-old Helga Maria to Jan Mayen island, Greenland, with four others on board while the ship was under a detention order pending safety checks.

## CORRECTION

Lord Hotham is to open the Royal Armouries' travelling exhibition of civil war arms and armour, sponsored by The Times, at a private view at the Town Docks Museum in Hull on April 10, and will not be taking part in the city's civil war re-enactment on April 25, as reported in The Times yesterday. The exhibition will be open to the public in Hull from April 11 to May 31.

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Mental state of woman who battered husband to death with rolling pin was impaired, court rules

## Tormented wife cleared of murder

By MICHAEL HORNELL

A WOMAN who battered her husband to death after being subjected to years of mental torture and then buried the body under a weeping willow in the back garden was freed by a court yesterday after being cleared of murder.

Jane Scotland, aged 52, was sentenced to two years probation after being convicted at Luton crown court of the alternative charge of the manslaughter of her husband Thomas, aged 48, on the grounds of diminished responsibility in 1987.

Scotland ground up sleeping pills and sickness tablets and put it in his evening meal but when that failed she beat him to death with a rolling pin.

With the help of her daughter Caroline, aged 21, who received two years probation after admitting preventing a lawful burial, she buried him in the back garden of their home in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, where he lay undiscovered for four years until a neighbour began to dig foundations for a fence.

Mr Justice Garland sentenced her to probation on condition that she lives at a women's refuge in London. He said: "No good whatsoever would be served by seeking to punish you further. You will have to co-operate with the probation service very fully while they assess your needs." He told Caroline, who has a three-year-old daughter: "When you were 18 you found yourself in a situation that must have

been impossible, almost an intolerable burden on you."

As she left the court through a back entrance Scotland shouted: "I feel great." Bob Amos, her solicitor, said: "She is very relieved, at the result. She is happy to be reunited with her daughter."

Caroline, who had been in the house at the time of her parents' fight, appeared on the scene. The women wrapped his body in a tarpaulin sheet which they bound with his ties. They dragged it outside to a garden shed. Twenty-four later, at midnight, they dug a shallow grave.

Both women covered up the killing for four years, saying Mr Scotland had suddenly gone to Saudi Arabia to work as a contract electrician. The secret was uncovered on Easter Day last year when a neighbour, erecting a garden fence, uncovered the husband's remains.

Helena Kennedy, QC, for the defence, said Scotland had for years endured the "monstrous behaviour" of a dictatorial and strict husband who showed no care or consideration for her, Caroline or the two sons of the family.

Nigel Eastman, a forensic scientist who interviewed Scotland in Holloway where she was on remand, said that she had received drug medication for depression because of her husband's domineering behaviour. He drank heavily, treated her like a servant and had hit her since the first week of their 22-year marriage.



Scotland: behaviour was "monstrous"



Ordeal over: Caroline Scotland, left, and her mother June, right, leaving the court yesterday

Sausage  
lovers  
sing their  
praise

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH sausages, threatened by Eurocrats and suspected by health food enthusiasts, have now proved themselves the most inspirational of foodstuffs. They have provided the raw material, so to speak, for more than 400 new songs entered in the 1992 British Sausage Song Contest.

The finals of the event, similar in style and content to the Eurovision song contest but more single-minded, were staged yesterday at the Players' Theatre, Charing Cross, and proved that sausages can stir deep and unsuspected emotions in the nation's composers and lyric writers.

The competition was judged by a panel including Richard Stilgoe, the writer of a nifty ditty celebrating "the carnivores' banana" and claiming that while two eggs make the eyes, a tomato the nose, and rashes of bacon moustaches, you need a British sausage for the smile.

The six songs chosen as finalists were equally ingenious, though various in mood. The most upbeat, written by Jim Birmingham, proclaimed in Chas and Dave style:

*Great British sausage that makes Great Britain great  
There is no better way to fill up your plate.*

Doug Taylor, hailed by the judges as Elvis reborn as a Dewhurst manager, managed a passable imitation of the King cravelling one last banger at the Heartbreak Hotel with the solo line:

*And when I think of the moment that our loving had to end*

*A juicy sausage will be my best friend.*

Gordon Schofield's ditty, *Living in the Saus-Age*, nimbly climaxed with the line "and I want to share my sausage with you", while the most emotionally charged was an evocative ballad called *Sausages and Tears* by John Wats and Fischer Z, only slightly handicapped by the line: "I like lots of pork so I can hardly walk."

All these paled, though, before a rap number entitled *Bangers!* and recorded by Cliff Douse under the pseudonym of MC Banger. This item was duly judged Britain's song for a sausage 1992, and Mr Douse will be rewarded with a Yamaha keyboard worth £1,700 and a professional recording session.

In the encouraging words of Richard Stilgoe: "Don't worry about BSE. John Selwyn Gummer eas them for his tea."

## Study launched into pill and breast cancer links

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE world's biggest investigation has been launched to find out if women who take the pill or hormone replacement therapy are at higher risk of developing breast cancer.

Powered by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the study will pool all the data from at least 40 previous studies involving more than 60,000 women in Britain and overseas. The findings should settle a controversy that has flared on and off for years, leaving millions uneasy about either drug.

Valerie Beral, project leader, said that 15,000 women died from breast cancer in Britain every year. "Some studies have shown an increased risk of breast cancer in younger women who have taken the pill, but studies of older women who are more likely to get breast cancer have not found any effect. It is clear that whatever the effects are they are very small. On the other hand, breast cancer is so common that even a small increase in risk would be important."

The study, known as a "meta-analysis", will compare 30,000 women with breast cancer and an even larger

group of unaffected women. Dr Beral said: "We are going to look at their history of oral contraceptive use and also at their use of HRT. We shall also check their pregnancy history, the number of children they had and how old they were when their first child was born. This is important, since the younger they are the more protection they have against breast cancer."

Dr Colin Mackland, medical adviser to Schering, the

world's biggest pill manufacturer, said: "Naturally, we shall be very interested to see the outcome of this study."

Linda Edwards, director of the National Osteoporosis Society, which advocates hormone replacement therapy to counter the effects of the menopause, also welcomed the study. She said that the expert consensus was that taking HRT for up to ten years did not increase the risk of breast cancer.

Leona Taylor, aged 29, of Croydon, Surrey, had been under the care of health visitors, social workers and rehabilitation workers because she had suffered for years from manic depression.

"There can be no criticism of the level of social and nursing support you had," Mr Justice John Leonard said.

Colin Morgan, the father of the boy, sat in the public gallery. Heather Hallett, QC,

for the prosecution, said that once Dominic was born in January last year, Morgan failed to live with her and his visits grew less and less.

When he did turn up he was highly critical of Miss Taylor and taunted her. He told her she was a "hopeless" mother and this destroyed her confidence, said Miss Hallett. In fact she was loved her boy.

The judge ordered that Miss Taylor, who admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility, should be kept in a secure mental unit without limit of time.

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He said needier patients might be denied treatment to accommodate others who had waited longer.

## Schoolboy prank ends in deaths

By PETER VICTOR

POLICE in Lancashire are searching for up to four children whose schoolboy game resulted in two deaths.

Roy Robinson, aged 73, and Fred Jones, aged 66, both collapsed with fatal heart attacks outside their homes as they chased the boys who had been knocking on the doors and windows of Mr Robinson's flat in Great Harwood.

The boys had been playing pranks on the elderly men, running away or taunting them in the street after knocking at their homes. On Sunday Mr Robinson lost his patience. He went out to remonstrate with the boys but collapsed and died after chasing them for just a few yards.

Mr Jones, his next-door neighbour, went out to join the chase on hearing the noise. As the boys fled, he too collapsed and died later in hospital.

Police visited the neighbourhood and local schools yesterday but said that there was no intention to bring legal proceedings against the boys. "They were playing the kind of game a lot of kids do," a spokesman said. "There is

no suggestion of any charges against them." The two men had a history of heart trouble and a pathologist had confirmed that as a cause of death. "It is a tragedy unique in my experience."

Police said up to four boys were involved. One was aged about nine with long blond hair and one of the others was dark haired and aged about ten.

John Harris, aged 63 and one of the men's neighbours, said: "These lads have made our life hell for months. They continually pester you in the street. They play silly games with you shouting and bawling and swearing. They ring doorbells and run off, that sort of thing. It terrifies the elderly and infirm."

One of the staff at the nearby Commercial Hotel said: "These kids don't seem to have a childhood anymore. They just leap from nappies to streetwise gang roaming the roads causing trouble. I suppose one of the problems is there is not much else to do around here."

Police are compiling a report on the deaths for the coroner.

ENGINEERS more used to smoothing the path of a 180mph Formula One car over the bumps of a race track are turning to their attention to horsepower of a more basic kind.

Lotus, manufacturer of high performance road and race cars, has been asked to devise an independent suspension system for racecars.

Although racehorses run on grass, they, too, suffer the same vibrations on hard ground as a Formula One car tackling a tarmac course at high speed.

The latest Formula One cars, such as the Williams car driven to victory by Nigel Mansell in the Mexico grand prix at the weekend, have their race smoothed off by a clever electronic system.

It reads the bumps and adjusts the suspension to take the worst out of the jolts.

A racehorse sorbs the shock through its legs, leading at best to a poor performance and at worst to withdrawal from a race or even injury.

Lotus confirmed yesterday that it has been asked by an unnamed owner and trainer to come up with a

## Baby was stabbed 80 times

By KERRY GILL

A MOTHER, abandoned by her "highly critical" lover, stabbed her six-month-old son 80 times, an Old Bailey judge was told yesterday. "He will be better off with God," she told friends afterwards.

Leona Taylor, aged 29, of Croydon, Surrey, had been under the care of health visitors, social workers and rehabilitation workers because she had suffered for years from manic depression.

"There can be no criticism of the level of social and nursing support you had," Mr Justice John Leonard said.

Colin Morgan, the father of the boy, sat in the public gallery. Heather Hallett, QC,

for the prosecution, said that once Dominic was born in January last year, Morgan failed to live with her and his visits grew less and less.

When he did turn up he was highly critical of Miss Taylor and taunted her. He told her she was a "hopeless" mother and this destroyed her confidence, said Miss Hallett. In fact she was loved her boy.

The judge ordered that Miss Taylor, who admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility, should be kept in a secure mental unit without limit of time.

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## Planning officer shooting case

**Bungalow man says he received approval**

BY PETER DAVENPORT

**ALBERT** Dryden, the man accused of shooting dead a council planning officer in a dispute over an illegally built bungalow, told a jury yesterday that the official had previously given him verbal permission to erect the building.

He said that Harry Collinson, the chief planning officer of Darwenshire Council, had been friendly and helpful when he first used his £13,000 redundancy payment from British Steel to buy the plot of land for the bungalow.

Mr Dryden, aged 51, told the jury at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, on the sixth day of his trial for murder, that Mr Collinson had given him verbal permission to build in a hollow of land at Buttsfield, near Consett in County Durham.

He said that he spent 2,560 hours and £6,100 putting up the bungalow, which he was ordered to demolish after the council insisted it had been constructed without planning permission.

On a June day last year the long running dispute came to

loring a public enquiry into the affair.

He said: "I had the feeling that if Mr Collinson had been at the enquiry and told the truth instead of leading me up the garden path, then the inspector would have allowed me to keep it [the bungalow] for alternate use."

"Mr Collinson told me when I went to see him that he couldn't go to the enquiry because if he had told the truth he would have probably been finished."

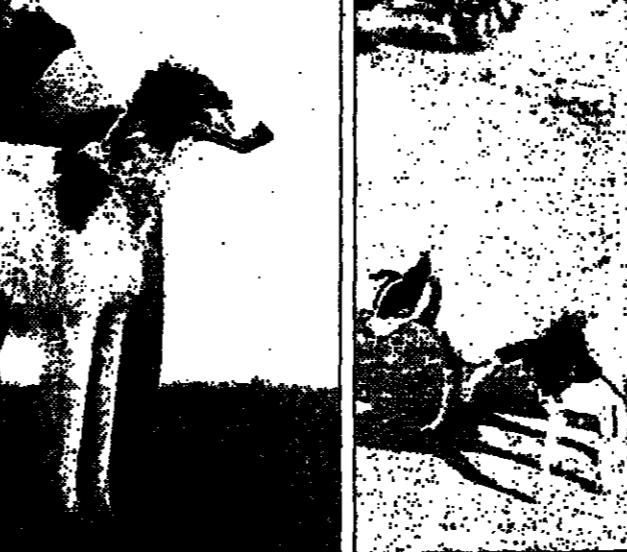
Mr Dryden told the court of an earlier incident during which he said he had discovered Mr Collinson taking photographs of the bungalow.

"He said I was going to be taken to court and fined £2,000 and that when I was in jail they would flatten the bungalow. He was taking photographs then he ran like hell and I chased him."

In the witness box yesterday, Mr Dryden said that Mr Collinson's attitude towards him changed when the demolition order was approved fol-



Woman's best friend: Archer with Borzoi, circa 1930, by G. Riecke



Lettine's Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, 1911

**Dogged collector sells up**

THE dog may be man's best friend, his guardian and occasional fashion accessory. Now he has a new role: a lucrative collecting theme.

A German industrialist, Uwe Scheid, compiled 500 photographs of canine subjects (Sarah Jane Checkland

writes). He is selling them at Christie's on May 7 because,

he says, his own dog died

and the images have become

too painful. Critics may

believe the £35,000 pre-sale

estimate tells another story.

The collection includes daguerreotypes in which the

photographer has managed

to keep his canine subjects

still long enough to achieve

proper exposure. There are

also rare examples from the

series by Edweard

Myattige in which, just

over a century ago, animal

movement was captured for

the first time in a sequence of shots (estimate £400).

More entertaining are the snapshots of social mores, such as Jacques-Henri Lartigue's Avenue du Bois de Boulogne of 1911, with two small dogs paraded as an accessory for their mistress.

**Ramblers press for forest access**

BY JOHN YOUNG

PUBLIC access to the national forest planned for the Midlands will be unreasonably restricted, the Ramblers' Association complained yesterday.

Alan Mattingly, the association's director, said that the Government and the Countryside Commission seemed to believe that to persuade landowners to allocate land for tree planting they had to be assured that public access would not be required. "Unless a change of direction is taken, the new national forest will become a fenced off, private affront for local landowners, not the public."

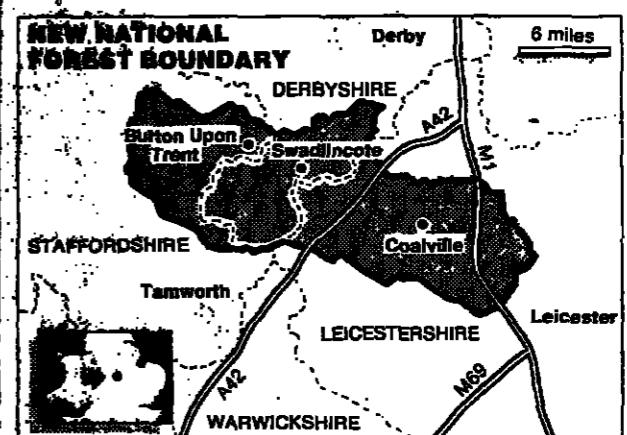
Mr Mattingly said that the forest, to be modelled on the New Forest in Hampshire, could be established only with substantial public money. The public should therefore have a fair return for its investment in the form of reasonable access, and landowners who accepted grants should be told at the outset of their obligation to provide it.

In a report the association adds that there cannot be

unlimited access. Restrictions may be needed to avoid damage to young trees and to sensitive nesting sites, and on certain days to allow shooting. But there should be more extensive access than the present rights of way. The public wants a forest as accessible as the New Forest, the Forest of Dean and Sherwood Forest.

The report says that the Countryside Commission has appointed an advisory board to represent "local authority, business, farming, forestry and other interests", but outdoor recreational bodies are inadequately represented; meetings are in secret, and minutes are not published.

Susan Bell, director of the New National Forest development team, said yesterday: "Our plans are to create a forest that is accessible in every sense, one that is welcoming to the visitor as well as one that is productive and a haven for wildlife." But nobody could promise free public access. "Those rights are not ours to give."

**GLC sale has get-out clause****£1.1m for crash man who lies**BY NANCY KELLY  
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

COUNTY Hall in London was sold yesterday to a Japanese property company, but with a clause in the contract allowing a new government to pull out of the deal after the election. Labour would halt the sale.

Shirley Corporation has agreed to buy only the riverside building for a sum thought to be about £200 million. The company plans to convert it into a hotel, apartments and business and conference centre. The contract was signed yesterday by Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the London Residential Body, and the sale is to be completed in October next year.

The election clause reflects the concern of Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, that the sale should not be seen as being rushed through. It could also give the London School of Economics, which was ousted by Shirley Corporation, a second chance.

Ryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, said that a Labour government would pull out of Greater London authority at County Hall but would seek a partner to occupy part of the site.

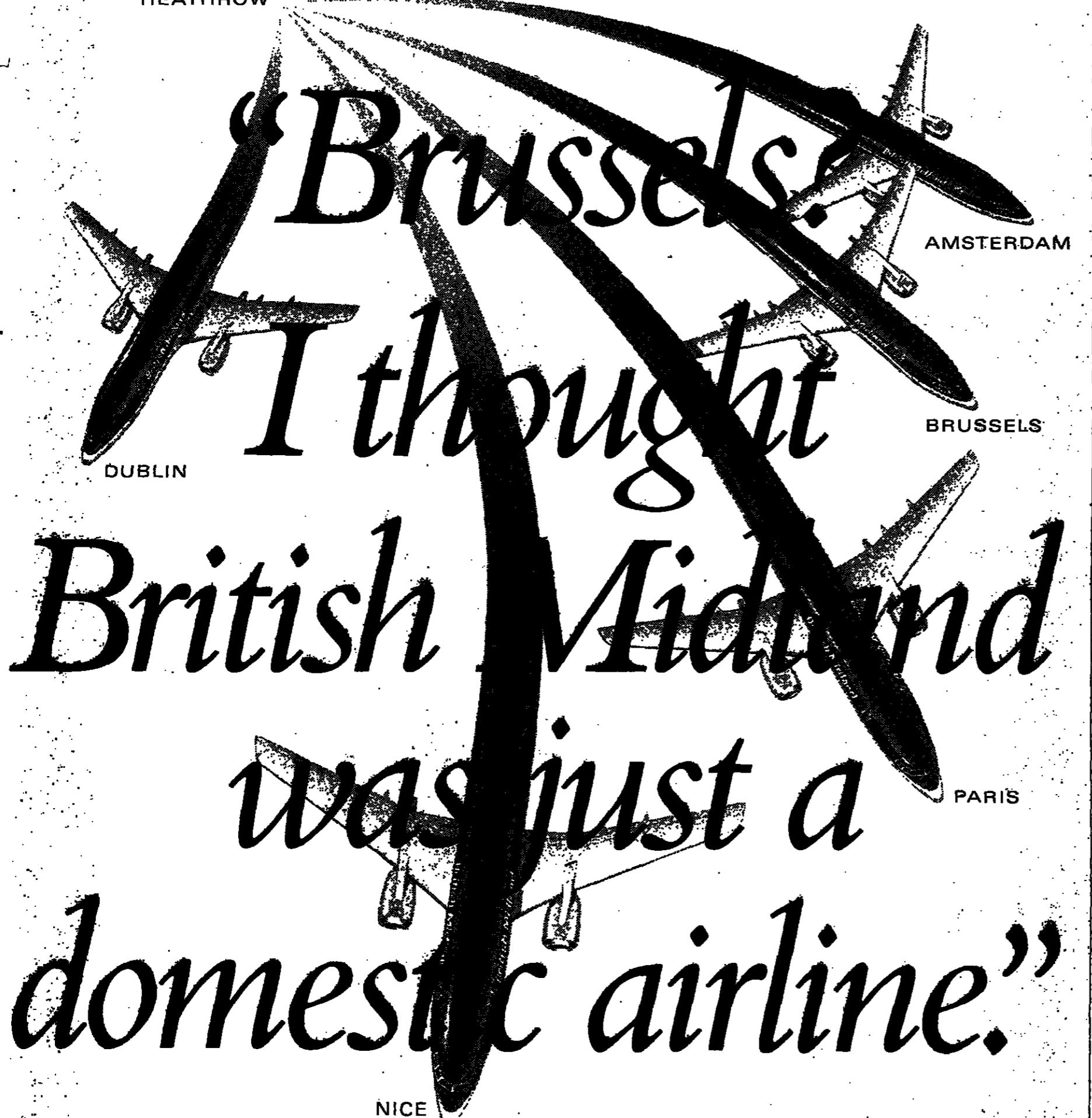
A road crash victim is to receive £1.125 million compensation for brain injuries that turned him into a liar. The award was approved in the High Court yesterday after a judge heard that Robin Capps, aged 24, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, had undergone a personality change since a car struck his moped in 1985, which made him lie to parents and friends.

Mr Capps also lost his sense of smell, walked with a limp and could develop epilepsy. Part of the money will be used to set up a structured damages scheme to provide an inflation-proof income.

In another case yesterday, a girl aged eight was awarded record compensation in the first structured settlement approved by the Northern Ireland High Court. She will receive £5 million by the time she is 60.

Jane Kearney, of Cliftonville, Belfast, is in a wheelchair after suffering brain damage and leg injuries when she was hit by a car three years ago. Under the settlement she will get £90,000 now and £13,694 every year for the rest of her life, rising annually by 5 per cent. The award was against the driver, David Caldwell, from Whitehead, Co Antrim.

HEATHROW



With the launch of Heathrow-Brussels on March 29th, British Midland adds yet another route to its existing European services to Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin, Nice, Palma and Malaga.

With six flights each weekday to Brussels, British Midland now offers more than 220 Diamond Service flights a week to Europe from Heathrow.

Each flight delivers the unpretentious, efficient, genuinely friendly business class service that has not only won us our seventh 'Best Domestic Airline' award, but this year also saw us named as Executive Travel Magazine's 'Best Short-haul Carrier'.

And each flight offers great value for money.

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flexible 3 day Executive Return is an impressive £100 less than other airlines' business class fares.

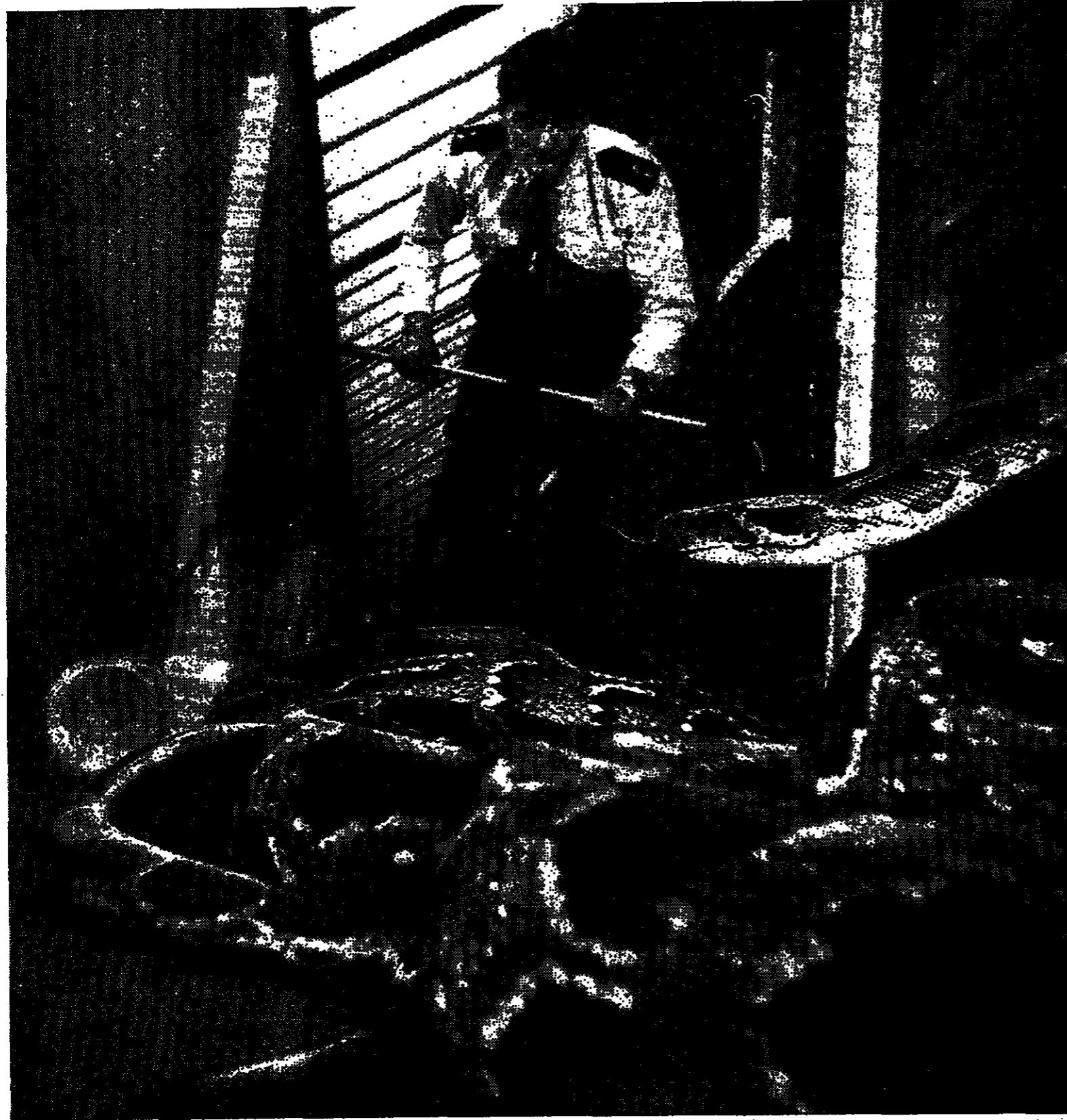
So fly the airline that's making the news around Europe. Now, more than ever, British Midland is the alternative to be taken seriously.

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# Rescuing kittens? Our inspectors are more likely to be having them.



The poorly-lit corridors of a 60's tower block are not the cheeriest of places at the best of times.

Less so when you know that somewhere in the shadows lurks an 8ft long python.

It was this rather unpleasant situation that faced an RSPCA Inspector last September.

The residents of a block of flats in Peckham, South London, had reported the presence of a large snake in the building.

Our Inspector arrived and eventually captured the python on the 9th floor.

Or rather, it was the python that captured him, looping its coils around his body.

Fortunately, he managed to release its grip and the snake was quickly placed in a box to be handed over to a specialist.

In a way, the Inspector was lucky. He knew what was likely to happen. Normally, he'd have no idea.

Inspector Nick Green\* went to a shop where a dog had been heard whining.

He wasn't unduly worried, it was just a simple everyday case. Even the owner appeared pleasant.

It was only when he entered the yard that he realised he was in trouble, because he faced not one whimpering pooch but 14 snarling guard dogs.

**He was fortunate to escape.**

Nonetheless it took him nearly three months to psychologically recover from the attack.

Unfortunately, savagery is not confined to the animal kingdom.

Chief Inspector Hill\* has been threatened with an axe. Inspector King\* with a crossbow.

Yet they all carry on. Because their first duty is to the animals they've vowed to help.

Last year the RSPCA received over a million calls.

We only have 287 Inspectors. We urgently need to increase the number to 300. But that will take money. Lots of it.

The total cost of training, equipping and keeping one new Inspector on the road for the first year is £31,088.

And after that it costs us £7 an hour to keep him, or her, on active duty.

We do our best, it's true, but it's not enough.

Please fill in the coupon.

Because we'd like nothing more than to live in a cruelty free world.

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At the moment though, it's just a fantasy. But one day, with your help, who knows?

The RSPCA is a registered charity. We receive no government funds. Please use my donation to fight animal cruelty.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

To: RSPCA, Dept K10B,  
Freepost, Bristol BS3 3YY.



REG. CHARITY 219095

\*The Inspectors' names have been changed for security reasons.

'Everybody fights for the convicted. Nobody gives a damn about the victim'

## Mother seeks justice for dead son

CHRISTOPHER Varma, aged seven, and his brother Ian, aged 14, were mown down by a motor cyclist as they held hands crossing the road, on their way home from a Scout fair on a June Saturday afternoon in 1987.

Their mother, Linda Varma, heard the police and ambulance sirens at home five minutes walk away. At the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, she found both boys unconscious. Christopher with his right leg hanging off at the knee. He died next day without regaining consciousness, while his brother slowly recovered in intensive care.

The court case which followed, in which the motor cyclist was cleared of reckless driving, is becoming a cause célèbre. It has been studied sympathetically by the prime minister and the attorney-general, and Lord Denning has intervened over the "grievous injustice" suffered by the family.

John Major has asked the Home Office to look again at the arguments for extending prosecution rights of appeal where fresh evidence emerges. The case is also being considered by the Roy-

al Commission on Criminal Justice, which is deliberating on a change in the law over the retrial of acquitted defendants.

In statements to police, four people estimated the speed of the 1000cc Kawasaki motor cycle which hit the children in a 30mph zone outside a school at about 60mph. Another put it between 70 and 80mph. A further eight described it as fast. Others told how the rider had been practising "wheelies" shortly before the accident.

But after an expert witness, who has since admitted that he was wrong, put the speed between 22 and 38mph, a jury cleared Henry Staals of causing death by reckless driving, for which he would have been jailed. He was fined £250 and banned for two years by Preston crown court in October 1988 for the lesser offence of careless driving.

Mr Staals, now aged 28, had been fined £425 and banned for 18 months in 1988 for maliciously wounding a policeman whom he deliberately rode into when the officer tried to stop him

had been made for the velocity absorbed by the elder boy.

Sir Patrick examined a report later commissioned by the parents from another accident investigator, John Knapton, who estimated the speed of the motor cycle at approximately 75mph. At the request of the Attorney-general, the two reports were examined by an independent expert who put the speed at up to 55mph.

Expressing his deepest sympathy to the parents, the Sir Patrick said that as a matter of law, the case could not be reopened. But he ordered John Bates, chief crown prosecutor for Lancashire, to write to the Director of Public Prosecutions about the "crucial importance" of ensuring that expert witness were provided with all relevant information.

The parents said that Dr Clapp based his calculation solely on Christopher's weight and the height he was thrown, without realising that Ian had also been significantly hit. No allowance

ranging review of our criminal justice system. The Royal Commission's terms of reference specifically require it to have regard to the need to ensure that the guilty do not walk free."

Christopher's parents regard the trial as a farce. Among their many criticisms is that in a statement to police, Alan Darlington, aged 17, the pillion rider, said he was scared by the motor cycle's speed, which he estimated at 60mph just before the accident when Mr Staals overtook three cars. He was not called to give evidence, nor was his statement read to the jury.

Mrs Varma said: "Christopher was a loving, intelligent, mischievous child, a popular boy and top of his class, who put his pennies in the guide dogs for the blind box and stood up for other people. I do what I am doing because of what he left behind for me. I want Christopher to be proud of me."

Richard Statham, Mr Staals's solicitor, said: "He is full of remorse, but the case was dealt with on all the evidence considered carefully by the jury."



Linda Varma with a picture of Christopher. 'I want him to be proud of me'

## Enquiry begins on jail deaths

An enquiry was launched yesterday into a series of suspected suicides by teenagers held at Feltham young offender institution in west London.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, backed by expert assessors, will investigate the four deaths since last August. Mr Scrivener, last year's chairman of the Bar Council, is conducting the enquiry for the Howard League for penal reform.

Conditions at Feltham, which holds males aged between 14 and 21, were criticised in the institution's board of visitors' annual report in 1991, which disclosed that there were 21 attempted suicides during August alone.

### Acid death fine

Caird Environment Group, a waste disposal company of Minworth, Warwickshire, was fined £50,000 after admitting failing to follow safety procedures, causing the death of an employee. Birmingham crown court was told that Arthur Wheeler, aged 52, suffered 52 per cent burns when an unnoticed drum containing acid exploded during a crushing operation.

### Crossfire verdict

A verdict of accidental death was recorded by the Birmingham coroner on Yvonne Williams, aged 31, a British holidaymaker who was killed by a stray bullet during a gun fight in the Queens area of New York.

### Statues stolen

Two large bronze statues valued at £20,000 were stolen from the gardens of Hughenden Manor, a National Trust property near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

## Ditched pilot saved by flying life raft

BY PETER VICTOR

A HELICOPTER pilot forced to ditch in the Irish sea was saved by a passing light aircraft which dropped a life raft to him. Coastguard and RAF rescue teams arriving to pick up Geoff Dodds, who had ditched because of engine failure, found him sitting in the rubber raft.

Mr Dodds, aged 44, told them that his helicopter had been shadowed by a small aircraft which circled as he hit the water. As he struggled in the cold sea the aircraft swooped to 100 feet, a side door was opened and the life raft was flung down alongside him. Mr Dodds, of Eccles, near Manchester, was flown to hospital in Blackpool suffering from exposure. Yesterday he was recovering at home.

The pilot who came to his aid, Eddie Whittle, a builder from Blackburn, Lancashire, said yesterday that he had been flying his Cessna light aircraft from the Isle of Man to Blackpool when he was alerted by air traffic control that a

## Fuel alert halts space Briton

BY NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Foale, the Cambridge university graduate who has dreamt of being an astronaut since he was six, was back in quarantine yesterday after the US shuttle mission suffered a technical setback of the kind that has plagued the programme for nearly two years.

At 7.39am GMT, five hours and 22 minutes before lift-off, NASA officials at Cape Canaveral, Florida, postponed the flight after sensors detected fuel leaking into the engine compartment.

The setback forced Dr Foale's parents, Colin and Mary Foale, who have made the trip from Cambridge for the launch, to return to their hotel room. It also ruined the celebrations of an excited party from Belgium, including Prince Philippe and Laurent, who had come to see the launch of Dirk Frimout, the first Belgian in space, who is a member of the seven-man crew.

Engineers worked through the night to discover if the leaks of hydrogen and oxygen fuel were real or an error from the sensors.

The US mission, involving the space shuttle Atlantis and not Columbia as stated in *The Times* on Saturday, has now been tentatively rescheduled for 8am eastern standard time (1pm GMT) today.

Dr Foale, who has been training for the eight-day mission since 1987, was ready to fly last year, a few weeks before the Anglo-Soviet Juno mission that made Helen Sharman the first Briton in space. Yesterday Dr Foale's father, a retired RAF commodore, said: "Naturally he is disappointed but he is a very calm guy and full of zest."

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THE TIMES

# ELECTION 92

TUESDAY MARCH 24 1992

7

## Major refuses to give pledge on taxation burden

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

**JOHN Major** was forced onto the defensive yesterday over tax, the issue on which the Conservatives had hoped ceaselessly to harry Labour. At his London press conference Mr Major refused repeated invitations from journalists to pledge that a re-elected Conservative government would not increase the overall burden of taxation.

He appeared to deny that the overall tax burden including indirect taxes had risen under the Conservatives, although ministers have previously accepted that taxation as a percentage of gross domestic product rose from 34.25 per cent in 1978-9 (excluding oil revenues) to 40 per cent in 1982 before dropping again to 37.75 per cent in 1990-1, the figures given in the Conservative campaign guide 1991.

Mr Major surprised journalists by insisting: "Over the past 12 years the tax burden has remained broadly flat at a period when we have repaid large sums of debt that were inherited from previous governments." Aides explained later that he was referring to the figures in the Budget red book which show that the tax burden was 33.5 per cent in 1979-80 and is scheduled to be 35.75 in 1992-3.

Under repeated challenges, Mr Major reaffirmed that the Conservatives, who are pledged to continue reducing income tax towards the target of 20p in the £, had "no plans and no need" to raise extra resources via indirect taxation by increasing VAT in a future parliament. He made it clear that they had no plans to raise excise duties, the other main indirect tax, by more than the rate required to keep pace with inflation.

"We do not see any need to increase the tax burden," Mr Major said, but he added: "I can't give a categorical assurance that we will reduce it and neither can anybody else. But it is certainly not our expectation that it would have to increase."

Mr Major appeared momentarily disconcerted by

they acknowledge that the target has to be widened, especially to include the currently vital C24 in the £10,000 to £20,000 earnings bracket.

Mr Major therefore swerved away yesterday from John Smith's shadow budget to Labour's manifesto spending plans, which he insists will cost £38 billion. The result, he said, would be an extra tax bill of £1,250 for the average taxpayer on top of any increases in Mr Smith's budget. "It would have the most devastating impact on the lives of everyone in this country that we have ever seen."

The Tories, he said, had 17 days in which to save Britain. He maintained that the Tory blitz on taxation was beginning to hit home and that people were becoming aware of the potential impact of Labour's plans.

One Conservative official said last night: "The £1,250 is what shifts the C24. It's what everybody will have to pay."

Conservatives were rueful yesterday over the press conference which had forced their leader on to the defensive. His responses were seen as the natural caution of a "Treasurer man", refusing to commit himself to tax pledges in the unknown period beyond the end of red book predictions for the economy.

A less honest politician, they argued, would have brushed away the trouble with a glib assurance.

Tory strategists say that they do not have to make commitments about future tax in the same way as they are asking Labour to do because they do not have spending plans on the scale of Labour's. Mr Major said that the cost of the pledges in the Tory manifesto amounted to less than £1 billion.

Tory planners believe that they can still advance their party's cause by drumming home the taxation theme and by arguing that Labour's taxation plans would intensify rather than cure the recession.

The Conservatives have spent almost all their energies in the election campaign so far attacking Labour's tax policies, concentrating first on the middle income earners who will suffer from Labour's plan to remove the £22,000 ceiling on national insurance contributions.

But they are aware that only 10-13 per cent of the population are listing taxation as one of the issues on which they will make up their minds who to vote for and

**Campaign stalemate**

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the questioning and his comments were seen as undermining the vigour of the Conservatives' assault on Labour's tax plans. Labour constantly counters the attacks by suggesting that the Tories have a "secret agenda" for raising indirect taxes.

The tax burden has fallen since the early 1980s but only after the sharp rise induced by the near doubling of VAT from 8 per cent to 15 per cent in the first budget of the 1979-83 parliament. Last night the Conservatives argued that the tax burden was bound to increase at times when the economy grew and real income rose, unless tax rates were cut. What really mattered to people was living standards or real take home pay.

They pointed out that the Conservative government in the early 1980s had deliberately reduced a high level of borrowing inherited from the previous Labour administration. But John Smith, the shadow chancellor, wrote to the prime minister challenging him to admit that he had been wrong in suggesting that the overall tax burden had not risen under the Conservatives.

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Labour sees credit controls as economic safeguard

## Kinnock accepts inflation risk

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**NEIL KINNOCK** said yesterday that he would not be prepared to see the economy ruined in order to get zero inflation, making it clear that a Labour government would favour growth rather than too tight a control on inflation.

If the cost of zero inflation, which the Tories had repeatedly stated as their ambition, was zero growth, that would devastate the economy, Mr Kinnock said.

The Labour leader was accused of raising the spectre of mortgage queues after saying that Labour would introduce credit controls, if the economy overheated, to avoid excessive interest rates. Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said that Mr Kinnock's remarks "revealed another devastating blow which a Labour government would aim at the housing market and the construction industry".

Mr Kinnock made clear that no controls would be needed if the economy remained flat, but Labour would use a system of reserve asset ratios if the economy overheated. Under such a system, used in the 1960s, a proportion of any bank's liquid assets has to be held by the Bank of England. If there is a credit boom, the government can raise the amount held to ensure that banks are unable to lend more money. Labour would use a system of "credit slicing" which would not be permanently imposed, he said.

Mr Kinnock admitted that during a credit boom mortgage applicants might have to wait for one or two months rather than have to pay interest rates at 15, 16 or 17 per cent. At a press conference later, Mr Heseltine said: "We told you they'd be more expensive. Now you are going to have to queue for them as well."

Asked about John Smith's comments on Sunday that he

would be happy if the level of inflation was on the lines of the EC average, Mr Kinnock said Mr Smith had been misunderstood. "John was talking about the European average and specifically about the Maastricht conditions," said Mr Kinnock.

"We want the lowest possible level of inflation: ideally, if it did not utterly destroy the economy in the process, we would like to see zero inflation — who would not?" he continued. "But we are not prepared to see the economy laid waste in order to get zero inflation when we could have a thriving economy, a high employment and high wage economy, with modest levels of inflation around the average."

If taxes were raised to fill the deficit, the deflationary effect on the economy would push down confidence and also arrest the possibility of an investment-led recovery.

Speaking in Birmingham, where he launched Labour's manufacturing manifesto, Mr Kinnock also made clear that despite the increasing deficit, Labour would not need to change course from its spending or taxation pledges. Asked whether he would have to put up taxes or cut spending, he said: "I don't accept that they are the only choices. If expenditure pledges were cut, it would undermine basic services, like the national health and education systems, and also deprive the economy of essential investment."

If taxes were raised to fill the deficit, the deflationary

effect on the economy would push down confidence and also arrest the possibility of an investment-led recovery.

On a day when every word said about taxes was being scrutinised, Roy Hattersley, also in Birmingham, admitted he had not used the best words on Sunday when he left the door open to tax increases. "My intention yesterday was to say it was for John to decide. It was not the most elegant way of putting it. John did decide an hour and a half afterwards."

Mr Kinnock leapt to his deputy's defence and said there would be no question that Mr Hattersley would in future be confined to his own area of policy during the campaign.

## Time to dig the dirt in squeaky clean campaign

A feature in *The Times* yesterday concluded that this election is missing "the big idea". I disagree. What the election is missing is the big joke. This simply isn't funny. Light columnists are close to despair.

Where is the slap, where the tickle we were promised? This, they said, would be "the roughest election in living memory". Rough? So Jack Cunningham and Michael Howard interrupt Sue MacGregor and have a rant at each other on the wireless — you call that rough? So John Major gets jostled in Bolton — wow! So a Militant supporter in Liverpool drops a piece of excrement near the election agent to Liberal candidate Rosemary Cooper — hell, it didn't even hit the agent, let alone the candidate.

Paddy Ashdown (to another Militant yob): "Hiyah, friend!"

Yob: "I'm not your friend."

Ashdown: "Well, you might be."

Is this the sort of savage exchange expected of a democracy where candidates used to run for their lives, chased by screaming mobs? In his memoirs, *Blood on the Walls*, published next week,



### CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

Willie Hamilton writes of his 1945 campaign in East Fife, "The Communists were howling like a pack of wolves ... and as soon as I began [they] started to rush the platform ... too late, they realised the strength of our supporters, especially the women. The women were terrific. They laid into the Commies, with fists, legs, and tongues ... Our 1950 election campaign was even dirtier ..."

... phut! Nothing. Ten days' campaigning, and still nothing. I'm sorry, but one back-bencher in a bush on Hampstead Heath won't do. The nation is so hungry for scandal that even a dalliance between John Gummer and Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, might amuse: but, sadly, no word of such exotica reaches us. Either they're all clean, or politicians have decided to leave that sort of thing out. This is desperate.

This campaign, they said, will be about personalities. We were warned to expect vicious attacks upon Norma Major and upon the leadership qualities of Sir Geoffrey Howe. Might be a secret transvestite. One longs to discover that Gerald Kaufman keeps a troupe of dancing girls in Manchester for his private titillation ... so where's the big affair, then? The Ashdown shock boded splendidly, and then

and Smith Square seriously think the electorate want to spend the next fortnight curled up in front of the television with a pocket calculator and copies of Mr Lamont's Budget and Mr Smith's alternative?

This, they said, would be an electoral road strewn with banana skins. Neil Kinnock would make some monumental blunder — suffer a brainstrom and revert to Labour's 1983 manifesto in an interview with Brian Walden, or do his Bug's Bunny impersonation on *Newsnight*. During a walkabout, Mrs Thatcher would flip, suffer the delusion that she was PM again, and start raving "rejoice, rejoice!" No such luck. Mr Kinnock has turned into a right little sober sides, and Thatcher is sticking to the bottle-green twin-set she reserves for periods of intense self-restraint.

I have nothing to report to you from Monday. There was no rough, no tumble; no slap, no tickle. No jiggery, pokery, cloak, nor dagger. On Monday there were press conferences. Dirtiest? Roughest? Funniest? We've been conned. This election isn't at all serious, and it isn't even slightly funny.



MARTIN BEDDALL

### Campaign quotes

"The honesty and decency of these people is far superior than what I expect to confront me in the Houses of Parliament."

— Tommy Sheridan, jailed anti-poll-tax campaigner and Labour Militant candidate, speaking of his fellow prisoners

"It was so hard on the daffodils."

— Mrs Thatcher after being attacked by a daffodil-wielding woman

"My wife is not a politician. I'm up for election, not her."

— Paddy Ashdown

"Neil Kinnock was on Concorde on Thursday and look what happened, the rudder fell off."

— British Midland chairman and prominent Tory supporter Sir Michael Bishop

"They are digging an even deeper hole and leaving Labour to clear up the mess."

— Neil Kinnock after trade figures showed Britain £750 million in the red

"I don't want to see bombs going off in London; I don't want to see bombs going off anywhere."

— Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein president

"Labour's manifesto promises [on education] are hopes to dream for, not pledges to count on."

— Paddy Ashdown

"The economy is at best flat and possibly slipping backwards."

— Neil Kinnock

"Privatisation has meant huge price increases for the customers and huge pay rises for the bosses."

— Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary

"We have transformed the fortunes of Britain in the last 13 years."

— Kenneth Baker

## Ashdown gets wary welcome

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE heart of Wales, where sheep outnumber voters ten to one, Paddy Ashdown received a rather world-weary welcome from the local farmers and their livestock but shrieks of delight from the schoolgirls. He also had a run in, albeit a polite one, with rival Labour and Conservative candidates.

Scouring the horizon for the sight of the occasional voter, the Liberal Democrat leader had gone to the aid of his candidate Richard Livesey, defending a majority of 56 in Brecon and Radnor. With Mansfield, it merits the title of the most marginal seat in the country. It also straddles mid-Wales, measuring 92 miles by 45 miles.

Mr Livesey's hopes were boosted by a NOP/HTV constituency poll at the weekend putting Liberal Democrat supporters at 35 per cent, Conservatives 32 per cent and Labour 30 per cent.

As Mr Ashdown spoke from the back of a Land-Rover in Brecon town square, a red car carrying Chris Mann, Labour's candidate, with Ann Clwyd, the shadow overseas aid minister, came through the square blasting out "Vote Labour".

"Let them pass, it's a free country," Mr Ashdown ad-libbed. "He has not got anybody to listen to him."

If the voters return Mr Livesey to Westminster, it is likely to be because of loyalty to him rather than promises made in London. One onlooker, Vaughan Rees, who said he had not yet decided who to vote for, pointed to the party's dilemma of the wasted vote syndrome. "The problem is that even if you think they

are good, they are not going to get power to do it for them."

Earlier, striding through Europe's largest sheep market, in Welshpool, Mr Ashdown came face to face with Jeannie France-Hayhurst, the Tory candidate. There followed a most dignified display of heckling, confined to the occasional mumble of "rubbish" from beneath tweed caps as Mr Ashdown chastised the Tories for abandoning farmers to the cold winds of the free market.

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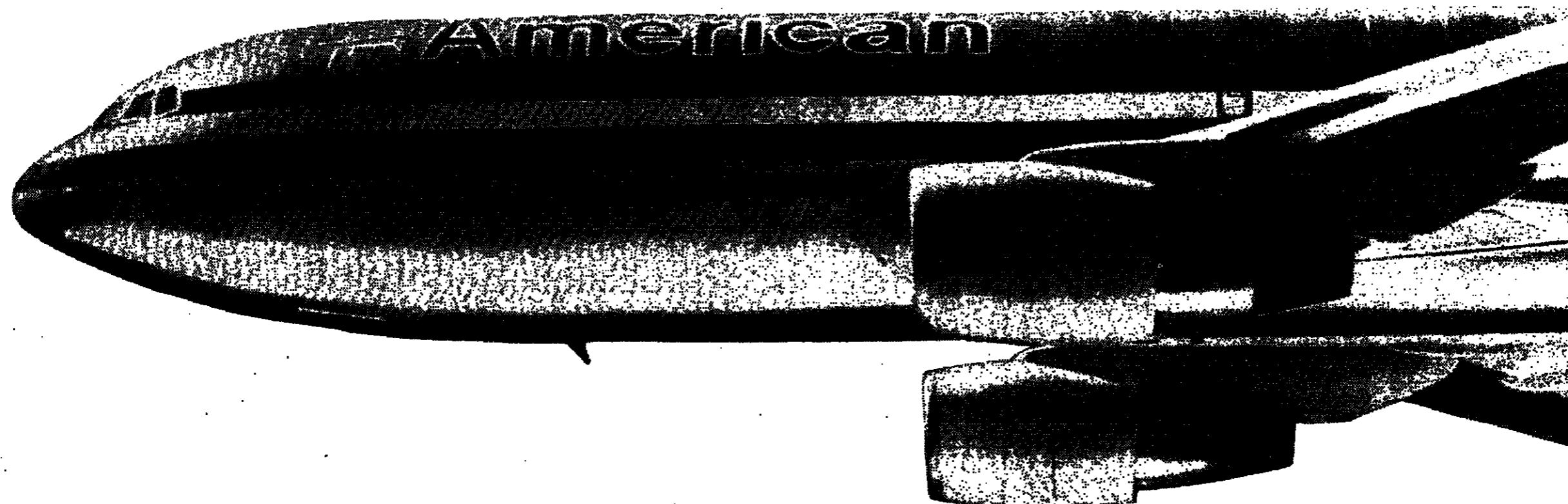
Barbara Mills QC

The Rt. Hon

Robin Leigh-Pemberton

Sir Allen Sheppard

Dr Carl Hahn



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# Heseltine aims for 80% home ownership

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to extend home ownership to 80 per cent of the population were outlined by Michael Heseltine last night.

The environment secretary said his nationwide rents-to-mortgages scheme would mean people being able to buy their homes for a weekly payment equal to the present rent and said that about 1.5 million council tenants could take advantage of the proposals.

About 69 per cent of the population own their own homes, and Mr Heseltine said that another 10 per cent wanted to become owners.

He said the response in pilot schemes justified the faith the government had put in the rent-to-mortgage scheme.

Mr Heseltine told a Conservative news conference: "I put simple question to council tenants — why go on renting your home under Labour when you can own it for the same weekly payment under the Conservatives."

The Tories are planning wide publicity for the scheme, announced in the Conservative election manifesto. Leaflets issued yesterday give examples of how it would work.

A tenant wishing to buy his home finds it valued at £4000. Ten years as a tenant would entitle him to a 40 per cent discount under the right-to-buy legislation. For the same amount of money that he is now paying rent he could pay off a mortgage of £2,000. The new scheme would enable him to take out a mortgage on 50 per cent of his property.

He could, if he could afford it, pay more than he is currently paying in rent and thus take a larger share of the property. Alternatively he

could gradually step up to full ownership.

Both Mr Heseltine and Tim Yeo, junior environment minister, emphasised the continuing role of a public housing sector. Mr Heseltine said: "Social housing is not an anachronism."

Mr Yeo explained that of four million council homes, about 1.5 million tenants paid their rents in full. The 2.5 million or so who received housing benefit to meet part or all of their rent costs would not be able to take advantage of the new scheme. There would still be a substantial public sector, he said.

Mr Heseltine combined his plans with a fresh assault on Labour's tax plans. He alleged that if Labour got in, mortgages would go up by between £40 and £50 a month because of an immediate 2.5 per cent increase in interest rates upon the election of a Labour government.

Sir George Young, the housing minister, amplified other manifesto plans. Home ownership would be opened up to 1.5 million leaseholders in blocks of flats who would be given the right to buy the freehold of their property, a new right to improve would allow tenants to invest in their homes and be compensated when they moved on.

He promised that pilot schemes allowing housing associations to manage private property would be extended across the country.

By relieving landlords of the day-to-day concerns of letting and by guaranteeing tenants a high standard of management the new scheme would build a bond of trust between landlords and tenants.



All weather friend: Sir Cyril Smith with Elizabeth Lynne, the new Lib Dem candidate for Rochdale, who hopes to succeed Sir Cyril as an MP

## Ashdown to demand education spending deal

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats will insist on a commitment to a £5.7 billion investment in education before supporting a minority government, Paddy Ashdown said yesterday.

As his party published a guarantee to make education a top spending priority, he said he would not support the Tories or Labour unless they agreed to take on the Liberal Democrats' programme for an immediate and massive injection of funds.

Although his party plans to fund the investment through a 1p rise in the basic rate of

income tax, Mr Ashdown made clear that such an increase was not a condition of negotiations. He said: "Our judgment at the moment is that this can only be done by raising the basic rate of income tax by 1p and we are happy to fight the election on this basis."

There was not room for much "give and take" over the education programme, as he believed that that was an investment Britain must make. The party decided to elevate education to the top of its spending priorities after

reports of its popularity with voters from constituencies on its "hit list". The fresh focus on education is also part of the party's attempt to counter the wasted vote threat, arguing during the remainder of the campaign that the more votes and seats it wins, the more likely its education programme will be carried out.

The guarantee, costing £5.7 billion over two years, includes:

□ Pre-school places for the under-fives, costing £525 million in the first year.

□ School repairs costing £50 million in the first year.

□ At least two days a week education for all school-leavers under 19, costing £50 million.

□ New books and equipment, plus teacher training and support, costing £200 million.

highlight too Labour's double vision. After years of attacking Tory under-funding, Labour's spending commitment does not match even one of their major education priorities. It means that Labour's manifesto promises are hopes to dream for, not pledges to count on."

Matthew Taylor, education spokesman, indicated the problems the Liberal Democrats may have in negotiating post-electoral deals by criticising Labour and Tory education plans. He said Labour promised £600 million over two years, but nothing in the first year. The Conservative manifesto promised nothing for pre-school education or school repairs, he added.

"Our document launched today highlights the inadequacy of the Tory commitment to education. But we

**Labour may spend more than the Tories, report says**

## Defence cuts claim challenged

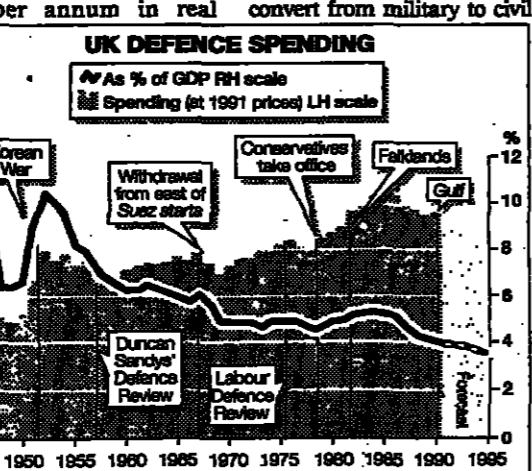
By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government may end up spending more on defence than the Conservatives because of concern over potential job losses in the industry, according to a report published yesterday by the Oxford Research Group.

The Conservatives claim in the election manifesto that Labour plans a 27 per cent reduction in conventional defence spending, leading to "devastating" cuts in the defence industry. However, Tor Voss, author of the report said that Labour would find it difficult to introduce big defence cuts if it won the election.

His report recalls the pledge made to the defence industry by Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, on November 1 last year, in which he said: "No extra jobs will be lost as a result of Labour policies."

The report says: "The historical precedents are that Labour would maintain defence spending, or at least stay reductions, rather than face the unpopularity of substantial lay-offs and closures." The "curious situation" thus arose that future cuts "could



## Major pitches for the doggie vote

Under pressure from Norman Tebbit to unleash the dogs of war, the prime minister made for Melton Mowbray yesterday in search of succour for his warriors.

The Leicestershire town is noted for its pork pies, but John Major was after something juicier — Pedigree Chum, perhaps? He found it in a railway marshalling yard pioneering the switch from road to rail. Lined up before him were a fleet of wheeled containers, each containing a mound of a delicacy in the animal world.

Pedigree Chum, Whiskas, Kit-Kat, and Trill, Mr Major started to look interested. Perhaps, however, his advisers had told him to keep off the subject of dogs after Margaret Thatcher's reminder that some Crufts champions never die.

The media circus had other breeds on its mind: Rottweiler Heseltine, Boxer Clarke and Pitbull Mellor.

Did the prime minister have a dog? Mr Tebbit was in for a disappointment. "I would love to have a dog, but it would not be fair on the dog," Mr Major said, before pitching for the RSPCA vote by explaining that a life-style of shuffling between Downing Street, Great Stukeley and Chequers left little time for Fido.

The kennel door, however, was still

Petfood, aircraft and a workplace ballot caught John Major's attention yesterday. Nicholas Wood writes

jar, and the resurrected Crufts champion was still dogging her successor. Radio Leicester wanted to know whether Mrs Thatcher had been recalled to revive a flagging campaign. "Absolutely ludicrous," Mr Major replied. He had invited her weeks ago to speak at the Tory candidates' conference on Sunday, and she had happily accepted. "Do people think there would have been an election without Mrs Thatcher campaigning?" he said. "They couldn't possibly know her."

Budgerigars seemed a safer bet as Norma Major pulled the lever and 22 tons of Trill started to leave its perch. "It's a lot of pet food," Mr Major said admiringly. "There's some pretty overweight budgerigars you're going to have."

Earlier, Mr Major had stepped from one plane at East Midlands International Airport and climbed on board another. His target was a brand new Boeing 737 leased by British Midland Airways. Neil Kinnock

waved from the cockpit of Concorde last week. Mr Major kept pace by doing likewise from his Boeing.

St Michael Bishop, the British Midland chairman, was clearly on the prime minister's side, saying: "Neil Kinnock was on a Concorde on Tuesday and look what happened — the rudder fell off. We're making sure this is not a rudderless campaign."

Steve Collett, a fitter and a wafering Tory voter, was not so sure. Mr Collett, aged 37, of Ripley, Derbyshire, unkindly told Mr Major that they would have to fix the aircraft now he had had a go on it.

Among the workers lined up on gantries around the hangar or watching at floor level, John Brown, an engineer, was unimpressed by the Tory attack on Labour's tax plans. "They sit down in London talking about how people on over £22,000 a year will be hit; that's irrelevant to us because we are fighting for £12,000," he said. "If they carry on hitting at that, their campaign is off the rails."

There was better news for Mr Major in an airport workshop. A batch of workers had produced a 50-50 split between Tory and Labour supporters, one sign that the C2 vote has not deserted the government. As the prime minister headed north for Sheffield, he was still in the hunt.

## Cricket highlights for BBC

THE television election battle will take a backseat tomorrow when highlights of England's World Cup cricket final against Pakistan will be shown on BBC.

British Sky Broadcasting has bowed to pressure from politicians and the public and is to allow the BBC to show 30 minutes of highlights from the cricket World Cup final tomorrow evening. Before the announcement was made last night, Neil Kinnock had again urged the prime minister to ensure that everyone in Britain could watch the final. BSkyB, which has exclusive rights to cover the World Cup, has decided to let the BBC screen free of charge excerpts from the final in *Sportsnight* at 10pm tomorrow night.

### Owen for EC

Dr David Owen, the former SDP leader, who is not standing at this election, will make his only speech of the campaign today at the Future of Europe Conference in London. He will suggest that Europe should be a dominant election issue.

### Punching home

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, unveiled a Tory poster during a visit to Birmingham. It shows two boxers in gloves, one labelled "Kinnock's Fiat" and the other "Hattersley's Citroen", with the caption: "Thanks a bunch, Labour is the last thing Brummies need."

### Minute wisdom

Politicians will be given 60 seconds of BBC Radio 1 air time from Thursday for a series of brief manifestos. "If they go over time, they will simply be faded out," Simon Mayo, the disc jockey, said.

### Minister bitten

Nicholas Bennett, a Welsh Office minister, was recovering yesterday after a dog bit him on the ankle while he was canvassing in Pembrokeshire.

### Karaoke\* Neil

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, last night called the Labour party leader "Karaoke Kinnock". He said: "He'll sing any song you want him to. Just press the button and out comes the line to take; inspired not by guiding principles, but by the fleeting fads of the moment."



For 29th March add an extra touch to your Mother's Day card with one of ten famous smiles. Available at shops and Post Offices everywhere.



## Patten pins his hopes on facts that are not borne out by the figures

Leading Conservatives claim that their private polls show them level pegging with Labour. They are well content. At the start of the campaign, advisers told John Major that the results meant a comfortable majority. The party chairman, Chris Patten, has described them as a "terrific base for us to go forward". Mr Patten is being remarkably confident, even allowing for campaign hyperbole. Should he be?

Conservative confidence is built on the assumption that conventional uniform-swing predictions underestimate the number of seats the Conservative will win because, it's claimed, the swing to Labour is lower in Conservative

Ivor Crewe examines whether Tories really have the upper hand in seats where Labour is not on their heels

margins than elsewhere. But there are no convincing reasons, precedents or data to support that claim.

First, why should Conservative margins be different? Socially they are neither distinctive nor homogeneous enough to respond differently from the rest of the country to political events. Some Conservatives claim that they have superior organisations in the marginals. Such claims are deeply suspect. For one thing, constituency organisation counts for next to nothing in the television age. For another, no link has been found between constituency results and constituency organisations which, it is claimed, have improved.

Nor are there convincing precedents. In past elections the swing in Conservative marginals has been very similar to the national swing. In 1987, it was fractionally lower (0.9 per cent in the 50 most marginal Conservative-Labour seats, compared with 1.7 per cent nationally) but that was largely due to the "in-

cumbency effect". Each Conservative MP first elected in 1983 replaced the personal vote of the defeated Labour MP with one of his or her own and so withstood the small swing to Labour in 1987. But that effect was limited to incumbents seeking re-election for the first time. In this election there will be only seven of them defending seats against Labour challengers.

The polling evidence, moreover, is mixed. True, below-average swings in Conservative-Labour marginals of 3 to 4 per cent have been reported for February by Mori and for the four weeks to mid-March by Gallup. These compare with national

swings of 6 per cent and would preclude Labour becoming even the largest party. However, in NOP's recent poll of marginals the swing to Labour was an above average 7.5 per cent and in Mori's poll last weekend of ten Con-

servative marginals in the Yorkshire Television region, it was 8.5 per cent — enough to give Labour an overall majority if repeated nationwide.

An analysis commissioned by *The Times* casts fresh doubt on Tory claims. Mori's

### HOW THE CONSERVATIVES ARE DOING IN THE MARGINALS

Region	Change (June 1987-91)	Lab	Lib	Swing to Lab
Great Britain	-1	+11	-8	6.0%
Total marginals*	-3	+9	-9	6.0%
North West marginals	-7	+12	-5	8.5%
W Midlands marginals	-6	+14	-9	10.0%
London marginals	-7	+9	-6	8.0%

\* Conservative-Labour marginals are Conservative seats with majority over Labour of under 20.0%.

Source: Mori aggregated poll, Jan-Dec 1991.

polls for last year were aggregated to produce a national sample of 25,000 respondents, of whom 3,400 live in allegedly pivotal West Midlands 10 per cent.

Granted, the survey as completed by the end of last year. Mori has, however, examined its polls since March 5 to see if voters' marginal seats are behaving differently from voters generally. They are not. The swing to Labour since 1987 in such seats is 8 per cent, slightly greater than the national swing. Conservatives add clearly foolish to bank on doing better in their marginals than elsewhere.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at Essex University

MARTIN BEDDOE

## Northern marginals stay unswayed by Tories' tax message

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservative campaign on Labour's tax policies is making little impact in Northern marginal seats, according to a Mori poll. The survey of ten Northern and Midland marginals offers no support for the theory that the Conservatives are doing better in marginal seats than they are in the country at large.

The Mori survey, covering the ten Tory-held marginals of Batley & Spen (Elizabeth Peacock), Calder Valley (Sir Donald Thompson), Colne

Valley (Graham Riddick), Elmet (Spencer Battiste), Keighley (Gary Waller), Leeds North East (Timothy Kirkhope), Lincoln (Kenneth Carlisle), Sherwood (Andrew Stewart), York (Conal Gregory) and High Peak (where Christopher Hawkins has retired), shows an overall pro-Labour swing across the ten seats of 8.5 per cent, a big enough movement to put Neil Kinnock in Downing Street if it were to be repeated on a uniform basis nationwide.

At the last election in the

ten seats the share of the vote was: Conservatives 44 per cent, Labour 35 per cent, Alliance 20 per cent, others 1 per cent. That compared with a national share of Conservatives 43 per cent, Labour 32 per cent, Alliance 23 per cent and others 2 per cent.

The Mori survey of 1,059 adults, conducted face-to-face on Friday and Saturday last week, measured support at Conservatives 38 per cent, Labour 46 per cent and Liberal Democrats 14 per cent. That puts Labour's share up 11 percentage points with the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats both down six points. In Colne Valley and Leeds North East, the Alliance was second last time. In the other eight seats Labour was the runner-up at the general election in 1987.

What will alarm Conservative strategists about the poll finding is that when respondents were asked which party's policies they preferred on a number of issues they put Labour and Conservatives equal at 37 per cent on the question of taxation. That is clear evidence that despite a week of hard campaigning concentrated on Labour's tax policies, the Conservatives are failing to get their message over.

Labour is also in the lead on the three issues named by poll respondents as most important to them. The party leads 52-26 on health, 45-26 on education and 47-21 on unemployment.

John Major has a clear lead over Neil Kinnock when people were asked which was the party leader they thought likely to make the most capable prime minister. He scores 41 per cent to 29 per cent for Mr Kinnock. But the Tory margin on who has the best team of leaders is much narrower at 37 per cent to 33. On which party has the best policies for the country, Labour scores 35 per cent to 33 per cent for the Conservatives.

The poll indicates that many of those who live in a marginal constituency are unaware that they do so. Of those questioned, 40 per cent said that they did live in a marginal constituency. 26 per cent said that they did not, believing that their MP had won easily last time. A further 34 per cent did not know.

Mori interviewed adults aged 18-plus on behalf of Yorkshire Television's *Calendar* programme across the Yorkshire Television region. Within each constituency quotas were set by age, sex, class and working status to reflect the composition of that constituency.

## Labour claims win in postal vote race

BY DAVID YOUNG

MORE than a million people are estimated to have registered for postal votes in the general election, with Labour claiming that it has done better than the Conservatives.

The deadline for registering was noon yesterday, with initial estimates indicating that the 950,000 votes cast by post in the last election, in 1987, could be exceeded by more than 10 per cent. The Conservatives have been traditionally more successful than Labour in this area. But this year Labour has canvassed postal voters in many key marginal constituencies. It has also capitalised on the fact that the election is being held during the Easter university vacation by advising students that if they live in a safe Labour constituency and attend college in a constituency which is marginal, they should vote there by post.

Labour says it has persuaded 20,000 student supporters to register for postal votes. This means that in the Tory marginal of Stirling, for example, the number of student postal votes will exceed the Tory majority of 948. Julie Minns, of the National Organisation of Labour Students, said: "The Tories have scored two own goals. Far from disfranchising students by holding the election during the vacation, they have ensured that their supporters will not be voting and that thousands of students studying in safe Labour seats will now vote at home in Tory marginals."

Tory agents have been wooing

expatriate voters as well as traditional postal voters in their constituencies, such as the elderly and infirm. In 1989 the law was changed, extending the right to vote to expatriates who had lived abroad for up to 20 years. Previously it was five years. About 34,400 voters in the vast majority Conservative supporters — have applied for overseas votes.

Many expatriates are not fully up to date with developments on the British political scene, however. A survey by the television programme *World in Action* found expatriates in South Africa who had no idea who Paddy Ashdown was, but thought "he might be an Irishman".

The programme also found that there are growing numbers of people who have not registered for votes either because they are avoiding the poll tax or because they are homeless. In Hampstead and Highgate, north London, where the actress Glenda Jackson is hoping to overturn a Conservative majority of 2,221, the register has fallen by 4,677.

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Child's play: Diane Abbott, Labour candidate for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, on the campaign trail with her five-month-old son, James. With her safe 7,678 majority, Ms Abbott does not have to worry too much about kissing other people's babies to woo voters

## Key Welsh seats swing to Labour

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is making important gains at the expense of the Tories and the Liberal Democrats in key Welsh seats, an opinion poll published yesterday indicates.

An NOP survey for HTV conducted in marginal seats showed a big swing to Labour in constituencies where it and the Conservatives are the main protagonists, although the Conservative vote is holding up better in the three-way marginals where either the Lib Dems or Plaid Cymru are also strong contenders. About 650 voters were interviewed in six seats held narrowly by Conservative or Labour: Delyn, Clwyd SW, Pembrokeshire, Vale of Glamorgan, Monmouth and Newport West.

The results indicated a huge move to Labour since the general election in 1987. Labour's vote was up from 36 per cent to 53 per cent, and the Conservatives down from 42 per cent to 32 per cent. The Liberal Democrat vote was down from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. The swing to Labour was smaller but still substantial when its successes in the by-elections in Monmouth and Vale of Glamorgan in the last Parliament were taken into account. The poll suggests Labour could

even hold on to Monmouth, seen as a safe Tory seat after 1987.

The most intriguing battleground centres on the three-way marginals where the Liberal Democrats have a strong interest. NOP surveyed three: Conwy, Cardiff Central and Brecon and Radnor, held by Richard Llwyd for the Liberal Democrats. The survey indicates that the Conservatives are down two

points, from 37 per cent to 35 per cent and Labour on 30 per cent.

The closest fight could come at Brecon where a separate NOP survey last week suggested that only five percentage points covered all three parties, with the Liberal Democrats on 35 per cent.

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## Ulster told to vote for peace

BY EDWARD GORMAN  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE non-sectarian Alliance party of Northern Ireland launched its manifesto yesterday calling on the people of the province to make the election a referendum for peace.

Addressing a press conference in Belfast, John Aldridge, the party leader, said that if the people of Northern Ireland wanted the political stalemate to continue, they should vote for the "samoid tired faces" as in the last.

"However," he said, "if the way you vote you demonstrate to the other parties that the people of Northern Ireland want peace and want change [by voting Alliance], then the prospects for inter-party agreement are massedly increased."

The party manifesto, *The Voice of Peace*, the first to be launched in the province, is a 31-page document with policies on everything from government in Belfast to ward development. It calls for the creation of a devolved regional government in Northern Ireland within the framework of the United Kingdom which would have law-making power, and at which the main elected groups opposed to violence would represent in proportion to their electoral strength.

The Liberal Democrats, formed in 1970 to attract Protestant and Roman Catholic voters and to break the mould of sectarian politics, at the last Westminster election it achieved 10 per cent of the vote, two points up on its showing in 1983. It has a outside chance of returning an MP for the first time either in East Belfast, where if Aldridge is standing, or in North Down, where his candidate is Addie Morrow.

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## Image makers keep Kaufman, Prescott, Waldegrave and Gummer out of sight

# Has anyone seen the campaign's missing men?

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

**THERE** was a man, Norman Tebbit remarked on Sunday, who used to be Labour's shadow Foreign Secretary, name of... what was it?... ah, yes, Kaufman. Others too have noted the absence from Labour's campaign of Gerald Kaufman, who his party was only too ready to bring forward a few years ago when he was winning points off the Tories and few others were.

Mr Kaufman has been spirited out of sight until the election is over, along with respectable trades union leaders as well as Arthur Scargill and left-wing members of the awkward squad such as Dennis Skinner.

They have been labelled "Not wanted on voyage" and tucked away in the hold until the election port is reached. In this pre-packaged, sanitised, television-conscious campaign all the parties are seeking to present only the bland, the safe pairs of hands and those who do not act as an irritant to anybody.

If you are not "good on TV", the campaign planning teams and their squads of media monitors do not want to know you. Never mind if you have, like Mr Kaufman, one of the sharpest brains on your party's front bench. If in any way, as Mr Kaufman assuredly does, you have a tendency to frighten the horses, then you can simply forget about serious exposure until April 10. What media managers want at election time are well scrubbed "soundbites" such as Gordon Brown and Tony Blair who anybody could take home to mother.

Five things can get you banned from front-line press conferences. The parties do not like people who tend to

blurt out the inconvenient truth. That deprives us on Labour's side of John Prescott, his party's most underrated politician, who is condemned largely to tours of regional bus garages.

They do not like those who appear quite obviously too clever. So William Waldegrave is helping to crew some Tory Mary Celeste in distant waters. They shy away too from those with a tendency to drop changes (but have to make an exception for deputy leaders like Roy Hattersley who has so far blundered twice, on water privatisation and taxes).

The other key disqualification is the irritant factor — a tendency to infuriate the ordinary voter almost before you have opened your mouth. Poor Mr Kaufman falls foul of that. And there is the non-entity factor: you cannot be wheeled on if nobody has heard of you.

On the Tory side, John Gummer, agriculture secretary, and Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary, have scarcely been hogging our screens. Another with an image problem is Norman Lamont, the Chancellor. He just has this way of looking morose. But the hierarchy realised that they could scarcely keep after Labour on taxation without bringing on the Chancellor, who is, however, gloomy an effective debater. So the dust sheets have been kept off him.

The Liberal Democrats' problem is slightly different. Mr Ashdown apart, the man being fielded rather too frequently for some tastes by their campaign director is Des Wilson. But complaints to the campaign director are likely to achieve little: the

media managers want at election time are well scrubbed "soundbites" such as Gordon Brown and Tony Blair who anybody could take home to mother.



Invisible man: Gerald Kaufman with a windswept voter, well away from the action, in Plymouth yesterday and, left to right below, other leading lights with an image problem, Norman Lamont, John Prescott, William Waldegrave and Roy Hattersley



## Thatcher attacked with daffodils

BY RONALD FAULK

MRS Thatcher was attacked by a woman wielding a bunch of daffodils during a walkabout in the village of Marple Bridge, near Stockport, Greater Manchester, yesterday. As the former prime minister was about to accept the flowers, the woman began flailing them at Mrs Thatcher's head. Her personal detective immediately stepped in and four uniformed policemen restrained the woman.

It was unclear whether any blows connected with Mrs Thatcher, who remained unruffled throughout the brief confrontation. The woman, wearing a green anorak and described as being in her 40s, was led away and interviewed for more than two hours at Stockport police station. Police did not release her name, but said she had been arrested for causing a breach of the peace. She was released without charge. A senior officer will decide whether to take action after studying a report.

The woman left the police station refusing to give her name or talk about the incident. Asked if she regretted it, she smiled and said: "No."

Mrs Thatcher was campaigning in support of Sir Thomas Arnold, the local MP, who is defending a majority of less than 2,000. Sir Thomas, who was walking a few paces behind Mrs Thatcher at the time, said: "The lady looked as if she was about to hand the flowers to her, and instead started to try to strike her. She possibly connected, I don't know. Mrs Thatcher did not seem at all flustered by what happened, and did not mention it to me, not a word. It is one of the hazards of campaigning."

Earlier this month, Sir Thomas, a Conservative party vice-chairman, was attacked outside his local Conservative club by two robbers who beat him over the head, and then took his car.

Later, Mrs Thatcher shrugged off the daffodil incident when she paused during a visit to a rubber stamp factory in Heaton Mersey, Stockport. Asked if she was shaken, she replied with a smile: "No I was not. I have been campaigning since 1950." She was also asked if it was the most aggressive act she had experienced on the campaign trail. She replied: "Aggressive? What a pity. It was so hard on the daffodils."

Mrs Thatcher later spoke to traders in Marple Bridge, who claimed their livelihoods had been badly threatened

because the main street had been closed since last September for flood repairs.

Mrs Thatcher, back on the election trail yesterday, vowed to add her energy, dynamism and a few helpful speeches to the Conservative campaign and scorned the opinion polls that put Labour ahead. The journalist who canvassed her opinion of the polls received a withering glance as she ended a visit to Westminster House, a private home for old people in Warrington, Lancashire. "There will be a lot more opinion polls," she declared, clearly expecting them to give a very different result.



Unruffled: Mrs Thatcher's personal detective shields her from the attacker.

## Party that hates everybody preaches to empty seats

BY BILL FROST

AS IF responding to the barked instructions of an invisible sergeant-major only they could hear, a phalanx of stern-looking young men with severe haircuts pulled back their shoulders, thrust out their chests and adopted a collective scowl yesterday in the foyer of a central London hotel. Word was out that communists, anarchists and homosexuals were set on disrupting the launch of the British National Party's election manifesto, *Fight Back!*

However, the praetorian guard might have been better deployed below stairs filling an ill-attended press conference which saw John Tyndall, the movement's founding father, berating

empty chairs, fuming about a political conspiracy and attacking the England cricket side. Even the most seasoned campaigners sometimes find bitter disappointment hard to conceal when confronted with a chronic lack of reporters and photographers.

Prodding an angry finger at the all-but empty suite, Mr Tyndall said: "Conspiracy, I can think of no other word which explains the absence of television cameras, radio and the bulk of the national press from this manifesto launch. There is a conspiracy to keep the key issue of race out of this campaign."

John Tyndall's party does not like blacks, Asians, socialists, Conservatives, the

## More MP lawyers forecast

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST 200 solicitors and barristers are seeking election almost guaranteeing more lawyer MPs.

In the last parliament there were 80 lawyers — 24 solicitors and 56 barristers in the Commons — including Margaret Thatcher. This time there are about 100 solicitor candidates, mostly standing for the Conservatives with the rest divided between Labour and the Liberal Democrats, and at least 71 barrister candidates (6) for the Conservatives, ten for the Liberal Democrats, and any Labour candidates unknown.

In the last parliament, of the solicitor MPs, 20 were Tories, three were Labour and one was Plaid Cymru.

The Law Society is running a campaign directed at such candidates and to win support over the issue of legal aid funding. In the run-up to polling day the society will be collecting signatures for its "save legal aid" petition. So far about 20,000 names have been returned and more are coming in.

The society also plans a "teach-in" session for new MPs soon after the return of the new parliament on how legal aid operates. The society is opposed to the system of fixed fees for magistrates' court work which the Conservatives have pledged to introduce by the summer if they are returned.

## Britain puts EC to one side

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

NO BRITISH television camera captured Sir Geoffrey Howe addressing an international conference on Europe yesterday. Within four months of Maastricht and 17 months of Sir Geoffrey's resigning as deputy prime minister over Europe, what would do any better.

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Other notable politicians will speak at Lancaster House this week and try to focus attention on Europe — once the key topic, but so far overlooked in the election campaign. Sir Geoffrey will be followed today by Dr David Owen, the former Social Democratic Party leader, and Peter Shore, the former Labour minister, and on Thursday by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, formerly Roy Jenkins, founder and first leader of the SDP.

At today's speeches, more media attention is likely to focus on whether Dr Owen, perhaps the country's most famous self-proclaimed floating voter in the present campaign, will use the opportunity of his only scheduled

speech during the campaign to disclose which way he may vote on polling day. Dr Owen confesses some frustration that Europe has faded so quickly and merited so little mention on the hustings. "I would really hope that the public would ask their MPs what their views were on Europe. It is so important and goes across party lines."

Mr Shore is also expected to criticise the lack of debate on Europe and to repeat calls for a national referendum on Central and Eastern Europe.

Advertisement

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# Time is running out for Moscow's dream of a commonwealth



Shaposhnikov: no cash to pay the troops

THE 11 republics of the former Soviet Union which make up the Commonwealth of Independent States have now held three summit meetings at which the main issues were either removed from the agenda or left unresolved. Each time the participants have found it harder to find peripheral points of agreement to disguise their failure.

The Kiev summit held last Friday is the first not to have been followed by the immediate publication of any summit documents, even though seven documents were signed by a majority of participants. There seems no longer the will to pretend that agreement encompasses more than it really does.

Yesterday, Russian and Kazakh leaders met to try to mend fences, fighting continued in Moldavia and Nagorno Karabakh, and President

Kravchuk of Ukraine came under pressure to pull his country out of the commonwealth altogether. As yet, the 11 states have no military budget, even though they have an army, or parts of an army, in common. They have no agreement on a formal division of former Soviet property, military and civilian, and they have not agreed definition of "strategic forces" — those parts of the former Soviet armed forces, including all the nuclear forces, that are to be kept together under central command.

These are all highly complex and contentious issues and require time and intricate negotiation. In one form or another, they have figured at each commonwealth sum-

**The conflicting priorities of former Soviet republics are proving irreconcilable. Mary Dejevsky and Bruce Clark write from Moscow**

mit. Yet the possibility of reaching acceptable compromises seems to become more remote with each meeting. The two biggest states, Russia and Ukraine, continue to be divided by the divergent considerations that led them to found the commonwealth in the first place. Ukraine joined the three-republic Slavic alliance, as a means of escaping the Soviet Union. Russia saw the alliance as a way of keeping Ukraine in check.

Now, whether the two republics are discussing economic co-operation, the military budget or the strategic forces, those conflicting priori-

ties make agreement unlikely. The smaller republics line up with or against Russia, depending on whether political or economic considerations prevail. The commonwealth as a grouping is being rapidly overtaken by events.

With only days to go before the commonwealth enters the second quarter of the year without a military budget, Russia said last night it was preparing a two-way accord with Kazakhstan on defence and other issues. The statement marked the latest sign that the former Soviet republics were falling back on bilar-

ge arrangements because of the crumbling of the commonwealth as a whole. Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the commonwealth armed forces chief, confirmed yesterday that no military budget had been agreed for the second quarter because the acutely sensitive issue of how to define "strategic forces" — which automatically come under joint control — had not been settled between Russia and Ukraine.

With or without agreements, the republics are forming their own armies. Having emphasised for months that Russia would be the last republic to form an army of its own, President Yeltsin last week announced the creation of a Russian defence ministry that would pave the way for a Russian army. Kazakhstan immediately responded by declaring

in official definitions — between "united", "join" and "allied" — which suggest the eventual acceptance of an alliance rather than anything more closely bound.

The army is the most conspicuous area where failure to agree brings the commonwealth closer to the loose grouping of states envisaged by Ukraine than to the state-like structure envisaged by Russia. In Kiev, Russia had to accept another feature of the Ukrainian "model", when it accepted that the commonwealth would not have a single external border, but would have individual state borders. The same is true of the property dispute. The longer that former Soviet property remains subject to no joint agreement, the more likely it is that it will simply be taken over by the republic in which it is located.

## The French regional elections

# Humbled Socialists court green parties

FROM SEAN MAC CARTAIGH IN PARIS

THE ruling Socialist party began licking its wounds yesterday after a drubbing at the hands of French voters which saw its support plummet from 29 per cent to 18.3 per cent. Less than one in five voted Socialist in Sunday's regional elections.

The traditional right-wing alliance — Jacques Chirac's Rally for the Republic party (RPR) and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's Union for French Democracy (UDF) — fared better, with support from a third of the electorate. But though they emerged with the highest level of support, the RPR-UDF total vote percentage dropped by six points compared with the last regional ballot in 1986.

Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front failed to make the huge gains predicted by worried French analysts during the campaign, but the party's share of the vote jumped by a considerable four points: 3.4 million adults — 13.9 per cent of those who voted — believed that the front pro-

posed the best programme for their region. In the Ile de France region, dominated by Paris, the National Front dealt a crushing blow to the Socialists, snatching 37 seats as opposed to 33.

And in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, where Bernard Tapie, with Socialist backing, had vowed to smash the power of the extreme right, the front registered 23.3 per cent popular support against 22.7 for the Socialist-aligned list of candidates. In Alsace, the Socialists trailed the front by 13.3 per cent to 17.2 per cent. M. Le Pen has promised to build on his level of support for the parliamentary elections next year. The National Front, he said yesterday, aims to be in government.

President Mitterrand, also with an eye on next year's election, is already under pressure to dismiss Edith Cresson, his unpopular prime minister. There was renewed speculation last night that she could be replaced within two months, but no indication that a successor had been chosen. Because M. Mitterrand does not like to be perceived as a president who makes decisions under pressure, any change seems unlikely for some weeks.

M. Mitterrand, who has changed the voting system twice since being elected 11 years ago, is likely to do so again before next year's general elections. He has promised "a certain amount" of proportional representation in any new system, but remains tight-lipped on exactly which method will be used.

If the Socialists were the losers in Sunday's election, the real winners turned out to be the ecologist parties. The rival Génération Ecologie and Green parties scored 7.1 per cent and 6.8 per cent of the popular vote respectively

— a combined total of 14 per cent. In Ile de France, the total ecological vote of 18.4 per cent left the Socialists, National Front and Communists trailing behind. In Alsace-Lorraine and Bas-Rhin, close to one in five voters plumped for green-minded candidates.

The Communist party's

share of the vote fell in every region, but it claimed victory on the ground that the pundits had predicted the party would be practically annihilated. In fact, George Marchais's party dropped only two points, down to 8 per cent of public support.

The other surprise was the turn-out on polling day. Politicians saw abstention rates soar to over 50 per cent in 1988 and 1989 and many

had

expressed a worry that such a phenomenon last Sunday would benefit the National Front. Newspapers and magazines took a hard line in the five days running up to the ballot, with the influential, left-wing *Le Nouvel Observateur* proclaiming on its front cover: "To abstain is to vote for Le Pen."

The Socialist party repeated this message at every opportunity and was initially delighted with the 70 per cent turn-out, but this did not aid their candidates, though it may have cut the front's percentage. The two green parties and the Communists, it now appears, gained most from the high turnout.

The Socialists last night issued an indirect call to the ecologists, suggesting "progressive alliances" in future elections. The call was not a new one, but in the past it could have been seen as Socialist magnanimity. Yesterday it looked as if they needed a lifeline.

Leading article, page 15



Long and short of it: Chanel's shawl over trousers and hunting jacket, left, designed by Karl Lagerfeld, being shown off at the winter ready-to-wear collections in Paris yesterday. The Scherrer collection featured a leather jacket and skirt, and an embroidered blouse over taffeta skirt for evening

## Envoy's defence of Islam angers Bonn

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WILFRIED Hofmann, Germany's ambassador to Morocco, under pressure to resign after writing a robust defence of Islamic fundamentalism. He converted to Islam 13 years ago.

"The preservation of the marriage is also served by the often basically misunderstood instruction of the Koran whereby a man may beat his wife," he writes in *Islam as an Alternative*, which also argues there is nothing wrong in a man having four wives.

The ambassador, aged 61, has only one wife — a Turkish former model called Bülbül who had a small part in *From Russia With Love*, the James Bond film. He refuses to say if he has beaten her.

The book also tries to explain why Islamic courts only place half as much importance on the evidence of women — "There are certain days when they can possibly be less reliable" — and why women should not be able to inherit as much as men. It is fully supportive of the Koran's commandments to cut the hands off thieves, and

stoning as another punishment. The book has raised a storm even before publication. After Herr Hofmann defended his views on television last week, the foreign ministry warned him that he must consider the German constitution before making any public statements. The ambassador denies giving any cause for doubt about his support for the constitution, and says his whole aim in writing the book was to prevent the north-south conflict growing through a lack of knowledge of Islam.

Herr Hofmann's good intentions have been lost on Herta Daubler-Gmelin, deputy leader of the Social Democrats, who have made equal rights for women a cornerstone of policy. She has demanded his recall because "such a man no longer represents our country". She sees his book as the "work of a rather naive German macho, who doesn't even know what it says in our constitution: marriage is criminal offence. Polygamy carries a two-year prison sentence."

## Britain endorses Georgian autonomy

BY MICHAEL BINION,  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR,  
AND OLLI KIVINEN  
IN HELSINKI

BRITAIN joined the rest of the European Community yesterday in recognising the independence of the former Soviet republic of Georgia. John Major wrote to Eduard Shevardnadze, the acting head of state and former Soviet foreign minister, confirming the move.

Alone of the 12 former Soviet republics, Georgia has remained outside the Commonwealth of Independent States, and was not recognised by the EC when relations were established with the ruling Socialists. The Democrats, led by the charismatic former heart surgeon, Saïd Berisha, one of the founder members of the opposition movement in 1990, have gained about 68 per cent of the vote; the Socialists a mere 22 per cent. The opposition has thus overturned the two-thirds majority which the Socialists secured in Albania's first free elections last March, and the clear margin of victory exceeded even its own expectations.

The Socialists up to now have retained a strong grip on the country's institutions and media which the new government is intent on overturning. A spokesman for the Socialist party admitted that it had suffered a heavy defeat and spoke of the party, the successor to the communists, holding only 32 of the parliament's 140 seats.

Responding to news of the victory, Mr Berisha, his voice hoarse after weeks of campaigning, said: "This is a great day for Albania. The people have had a long night and a deep sleep. They have succeeded in overcoming communist occupation and in walking the path of freedom and democracy."

For 41 years Albanians were forbidden to own private cars. Yesterday they took enthusiastically to their newly acquired wheels to express their high spirits. Cars, motorcycles and

## Joy on wheels as Tirana revels in Democrat victory

Democrats prepare a gentle purge after their big victory in Albania, Anne McElvoy writes from Tirana

The jubilation began in the early morning with a cacophony of car horns, the screech of lorries and victory songs resounding through the usually silent streets of Tirana.

By breakfast time, the city's avenues and squares were filled with revelling supporters of the Democratic party who have swept to a convincing victory over the ruling Socialists. The Democrats, led by the charismatic former heart surgeon, Saïd Berisha, one of the founder members of the opposition movement in 1990, have gained about 68 per cent of the vote; the Socialists a mere 22 per cent. The opposition has thus overturned the two-thirds majority which the Socialists secured in Albania's first free elections last March, and the clear margin of victory exceeded even its own expectations.

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In Helsinki, delegates at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe accepted Georgia, Slovenia and Croatia as new members of the human rights monitoring and peacekeeping group.

Today foreign ministers will sign the "open sides" agreement which will allow CSCE participants to conduct surveillance flights over each other's territory.

## Kirghiz fear struggle to run their own land

FROM JASPER BECKER IN BISHKEK

THE republic of Kirghizia has adopted a new flag, but it is hard to find many people in its capital, Bishkek, who are over-enthusiastic about their new-found independence. "We are not ready for it. We are too small to survive on our own," an English-speaking receptionist at the Ozar hotel said.

Kirghizia, with four million people and 10 million sheep, was one of the last parts of Central Asia to be annexed by the Russian empire, just over a century ago. The mountainous country on the border with China has never until now existed as an internationally recognised state. Its borders were drawn up in the 1920s by Soviet communists, and they now include large numbers of Uzbeks and exclude 130,000 Kirghiz who are controlled by the Russians and other newcomers.

Most of the inhabitants of this small isolated state are Kirghiz sheep farmers who live outside the urban areas in traditional yurts — round felt-covered tents. The tents are celebrated in the new flag, which has a picture of a yurt against a red background. The industrial economy is, however, controlled by the Russians and other newcomers,

native Kirghiz to take over high positions in the commercial and industrial sectors. He also wants them to be able to take over the running of small shops and restaurants. The fund will also be used to buy up land that would otherwise fall into the hands of the Uzbeks.

The president, as he admitted in an interview, is finding it hard to force the Communist bureaucracy to obey his orders. "There is considerable resistance," he said. He is helping to set up two parties: the Party of Businessmen and the Party of Peasant Landowners. If he fails, some Kirghiz fear the initiative will fall into the lap of nationalists or pro-Islamic activists. One such group has already declared that the country should put "Kirghiz rights above human rights".



## EC rejects ban on toxic waste

Brussels: European Community environment ministers have rejected calls for a ban on the export of toxic waste from the EC, inching instead towards a European Commission compromise (Tom Walker writes).

Members differ on how much toxic waste should be allowed across Community borders. Some nations argued during their meeting yesterday that it was impractical to expect states to process all their waste.

### Suspect vintage

Rome: Italy has ordered quality controls on all domestically produced table wines to improve its image after the seizure of gallons of contaminated wine this year. Marks & Spencer earlier recalled a white and a red. (Reuters)

Tough budget

Warsaw: Jan Olszewski, Poland's prime minister, unveiled an austere budget with steep price increases for coal, electricity, gas and rents. The measures will help to end high subsidies inherited from the communists. (AP)

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## Blacks accuse de Klerk of renegeing on cabinet vow

By GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

**BLACK** leaders in South Africa were furious last night after President de Klerk's government failed to offer them an immediate say in the government of the country.

A first round of post-referendum negotiations ended in stalemate, with black leaders rejecting an offer of a limited advisory role in the first phase of an interim government. The African National Congress and its allies described the plan as a system of "toy telephones" which left all power in the hands of the ruling National party. Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, accused Premario of renegeing on an agreement two weeks ago to form a multi-racial cabinet pending a new constitution.

The National party proposed that a number of transitional councils be established by the negotiating parties, which would make recommendations on new legislation. The present cabinet and parliament, from which blacks are excluded, would remain in office until the election of a transitional government.

The ANC said the proposals were "objectionable in many fundamental respects". It and its allies said the councils would have no powers to carry out decisions reached at the multiparty negotiating forum, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), and the present government could veto their recommendations.

Government sources said yesterday the ANC had compromised its full participation in the executive by insisting on joint control without joint responsibility. They said the National party's latest proposals represented a compromis-

ation.

Peter Soal, a Democratic party member of parliament, said he would urge Mr de Klerk to delay the executions until the issue had been resolved at Codesa, during negotiations on a Bill of Rights.

"The government is jumping the gun after acting so admirably on the issue," he said. "It is up for discussion at Codesa. These people have been on death row for years, so what does a few more months matter?" The ANC said the decision was unacceptable, in view of continuing Codesa negotiations on capital punishment. "To announce, so soon after the referendum where white South Africa voted for the peace process, that executions could take place is to fly in the face of the spirit of reconciliation."

The lawyers for a human rights organisation said the decision was in contempt of the negotiations at Codesa. Its spokesman said: "None of the prisoners has received notices of execution yet. This is going to cause a panic on death row." There are 310 prisoners condemned to death in Pretoria's central prison.

Dieter Hauser, aged 33, and Werner Schmidt, aged 35, were given eight-year sentences, and fined \$1,830 (£1,076) each. They were arrested together in Shanghai last August as they prepared to board a boat to Japan. Police said that they were smuggling 7lb of hashish. (AP)

**Police torture**

**LONDON:** Indian police routinely torture suspects in prison, where hundreds have died from beatings, and women are regularly raped in cells. Amnesty International said in a report. Despite a clear pattern of people being tortured to death, "at the highest political level successive governments have flatly denied that torture takes place, much less done anything to stop it," it said. Victims, including pregnant women and children, were almost all poor. (AP)

**Paradise lost**

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** A poll has found that 78 per cent of Brazilians think their country a "corruption paradise". More than three out of four think that the authorities are not doing enough to punish offenders. (Reuters)

**Final act**

**BALTIMORE:** A performer dressed as an alien representing the evil of drugs died after fireworks strapped to his chest blew up instead of sending out a shower of sparks during an intermission at a truck show. (AP)



Snowbound: Senator Edward Kennedy and Victoria Reggie, his fiancée, caught in a snow shower as they attended a reception for President Gorbac of Hungary in Boston, where the Roman Catholic hierarchy opposes their marriage

## Lockerbie pair to be given to Arab League

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

**LIBYA** has agreed to hand over two of its citizens, suspected of blowing up a PanAm airliner, to the Arab League, it was reported last night. Ali Ahmed al Houdary, Libya's ambassador to the United Nations, said it would then be up to the Arab League to decide their future.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, had proposed that Libya surrender to the Arab League two intelligence agents wanted in connection with the Lockerbie bombing as a face-saving way of delivering them to Britain or America to stand trial, diplomats said.

The secretary-general made the proposal in a telephone conversation with his old colleague, Amr Moussa, the Egyptian foreign minister. But Britain rejected a call by the Arab League to delay UN sanctions against Libya until an international court rules whether the two Libyans should be handed over to the West. "Negotiations on a resolution to impose limited sanctions on Libya will continue at the UN," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague is to open hearings on Thursday at Libya's request into whether the two Libyans wanted by Britain and America should be handed over for trial. Libya had indicated it would be willing to hand them over to an Arab country if it was guaranteed that they would not then be sent to Britain or America. Diplomats said Dr

Boutros Ghali left unclear what would happen to the men once they had been handed over to the league.

In Iraq, a UN arms expert confirmed that Baghdad had destroyed Scud ballistic missiles which it only declared to the UN last week. Speaking after a second-day check, Iraqi claims with his 35-man inspection team, Derek Boothby, Briton, said they had seen destroyed ballistic missiles and guidance systems components at three sites.

Asked if he was able to verify that the Iraqis destroyed the previously undeclared Scuds as announced in a letter to the UN last week, Mr Boothby said: "Yes, we have been able to verify that. We have not been able to verify all the details, but... we have seen some of the missiles they destroyed."

● Kiev: Ukraine's thirst for oil and its "trade war with Russia" is pushing it toward exports deals with Islamic states, such as Libya and Kuwait. (Robert Seely wires).

Two sets of economic emergency measures will be debated today to cope with shortages of energy which have left the streets of many cities devoid of cars and its factories working half time. Although nuclear weapon sales have been ruled out, it is believed that the oil for exports deal with Middle Eastern and North African countries will include sales of conventional arms.

Putting aside his falling popularity in the opinion polls, dire economic problems, attacks on Israeli diplomats abroad and worsening relations with America, Mr Shamir enjoyed the increasingly rare sensation of being applauded by an American

## Toll rises after Kurdish clashes

BY HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

**THE** weekend's official death toll in the Kurdish provinces of southeast Turkey rose to 40 yesterday when it was announced that a soldier and a policeman had died during fighting in the town of Sirkak.

Mustafa Malay, Sirkak's provincial military governor, said that all official buildings had been damaged during attacks by the guerrillas of the Workers' Party of Kurdistan who took over the town centre on Sunday night. The army had later captured the buildings the guerrillas had used as their headquarters, he said, and arrested large numbers of "terrorists".

A curfew imposed in Sirkak on Saturday, when 13 people died during celebrations

leads the workers' party, said that this new year heralded the beginning of the liberation of the Kurds. "From now on, every day will be Nawruz," he said. From his training base in the Bekaa valley of eastern Lebanon, he told the newspaper that the workers' party had more than 10,000 guerrillas.

Mr Ocalan founded the Marxist party in 1984 with the aim of achieving an independent state for the estimated 20 million Kurds in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Since then, some 3,300 people have died in clashes between his guerrillas and the security forces of Turkey and in reprisals carried out by both sides on alleged collaborators.

## PEOPLE

### Midler wins right to her own voice

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

A ROUND of golf at a whites-only club brought Bill Clinton problems as he prepared for today's Connecticut primary.

He was booed by black voters as he fought off personal attacks from his remaining challenger, Jerry Brown.

Mr Clinton quickly apologised for playing last week at the Little Rock country club where he has privileges as governor. He said he would not play there again until it was integrated.

Mr Brown attacked the "hypocrisy" of a man who presented himself as a friend of the Afro-American community but had done nothing for them. "Even George Bush wouldn't dare play golf at an all-white club," he said.

In New Haven, Connecticut, Mr Clinton had the tough task of addressing a mainly black audience which had been "warmed up" by Mr Brown and the Rev Jesse Jackson. Mr Brown raised cheers by saying that he would ask Mr Jackson to be his running mate. Mr Clinton, who had marched to mark six recent shooting deaths, was booed when he first appeared.

Connecticut voters have been cheated of the primary they would have liked today. The withdrawal of Mr Tsongas and the decision by Patrick Buchanan to halt his personal attacks on George Bush has brought a reduction in drama and national attention. A low turn-out is expected, despite local fears of the declining defence industries and the loss of jobs.

Mr Clinton continued yesterday to come under fire from journalists investigating his record. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, he lobbied legislators in 1986 to approve a state contract for a political backer who later pleaded guilty cocaine possession.

This is the latest of several charges, none of which have

attracted the electorate in the way that earlier sex and draft-dodging allegations did.

Muckraking, page 14

**THE** United States Supreme Court has upheld a \$400,000 (about £230,350) award to the singer-actress Bette Midler from the Young and Rubicam advertising agency, which used a "soundalike" singer for a Ford television commercial. The award had been made by a Los Angeles jury, which found that Midler's exclusive right to her vocal style had been violated.

Former African presidents are to form a Council of Elders to tackle the continent's perennial conflicts. The decision was taken at a meeting in Tanzania attended by former presidents Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria.

Thearmac at Auckland airport had to be steam-cleaned twice before the Pope could kiss the ground on arrival in New Zealand, the former prime minister, David Lange, has disclosed. Mr Lange said the area was used by race horses flown from Australia.

The Marquess of Bath, aged 87, has been taken to hospital with chest and influenza problems.

Fred Trueman is backing a campaign by Lancastrians who want to return to Yorkshire. He is to deliver a 2,500-name petition from people living in Barnoldswick on the border between the two counties to the Campaign for Real Yorkshire, based in York.

The Vatican said it was still considering a request by Princess Caroline of Monaco for an annulment of her first marriage, to Philippe Junot.



Princess Caroline: wait for annulment

TUNIS NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

## Time and money running out for the PLO old guard

**THE** Palestine Liberation Organisation has forfeited more than \$100 million (£59 million) from Saudi Arabia in retaliation for backing Iraq in the Gulf war, thereby provoking its most serious internal trouble since being driven from Lebanon by Israel in 1982.

Work at its headquarters in Tunis has ground to a virtual halt because of lack of cash, and since October the ageing leadership here has been marginalised by the refusal of Israel to permit it to play a direct role in the new Middle East peace process. "I used to have a budget of \$200,000 a month, now I do not have a cent," said Ahmed Abdulrahman, the organisation's director of information. "We have nothing to do, because we do not even have the money to produce a single poster."

So far the Saudis have shown no enthusiasm for forgiving the Palestinians, and Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, was snubbed when he attempted a reconciliation

with the Saudi crown prince during a recent Islamic summit in Senegal. Salaries are still being paid to most of the 2,000 PLO staff in Tunisia despite the fact that many are not working. But it is feared these

tal questions about the PLO's role, with many younger members feeling that its structure as an old-style national liberation movement is outdated and increasingly irrelevant. The old faces here are being challenged by new ones, like Hanan Ashrawi, from within the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to about one-third of the six million Palestinian community.

The PLO is increasingly split into those "inside" the occupied territories and those "outside" who are feeling more and more left out but have little room for manoeuvre," a senior Western envoy said. "There is a feeling that the Tunis leadership is retreating further and further to the sidelines."

Although lip service is being paid to the PLO's role as the puppet master pulling the strings of the Palestinians sitting down at the negotiating tables, moves to

establish Palestinian autonomy inside the West Bank and Gaza are expected to erode further the position of the "outsiders". The new malaise is easily detected among the bored and idle officials scattered in expensive villas in coastal suburbs on the outskirts of Tunis. Reports in the Egyptian press that the PLO is considering moving to Yemen as part of its austerity programme and because of growing Tunisian government restrictions, are being denied.

Mr Arafat, deeply embarrassed by the publicity given to his secret marriage to a young aide aged 28, has refused to give any interviews for the past two months. Officials say that although his personal position remains unassailable, he is under increasing pressure to democratise the PLO organisation and streamline it.

## Skin-deep politics deter Tamil Nadu defectors

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MADRAS

**J.** JAYALALITHA, the chief minister of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, is ensuring her followers' loyalty by encouraging them to tattoo her image on their arms.

Some cabinet ministers have complied, thus avoiding the possibility of a sudden break in their political careers. Mass tattooings are now under way among the village poor.

Over a thousand poor women in a housing complex in Madras the state capital, lined up to have Ms Jayalalitha's image put on their arms by a tattooist using a rickety, battery-driven machine. Many cried with pain. The tattooist, ignoring the AIDS scare, did not bother to change the blunted needle and went home with his pockets bulging with money.

The tattoo is Tamil Nadu's symbol of political sycophancy. A previous chief minister, known only as MGR, ordered his supporters to brand them-

selves to stop them defecting to rival parties. Ms Jayalalitha is not being so obvious, but the tacit message is clear enough.

Some are not content to stop at this gesture of commitment. K.A. Sengottaiyan, a state minister, pulled a gold-plated carriage around the Mariamman temple in Madras to invoke divine blessings for his boss, not to mention possible favours for himself. Another minister, D. Jayakumar, had the walls from Ms Jayalalitha's house to the party secretariat plastered with big posters in praise of the "living legend".

The party has four million paid-up members and the chief minister has observed these obeisances silently, but with evident satisfaction. She is riding a wave of popularity, in large measure because of her all-out drive against the Tamil Tigers, accused of murdering Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister.

## Woodrow Wyatt

### The civil war between the Puritans and Cavaliers is not over

Only 17 days to go and the bookmakers make Labour favourites. "If they can't get it right in 13 years they never will," Neil Kinnock says. The Tories are failing to convince that they did get it right, also that the lowering of interest rates which caused the post-1987 boomerang boom was backed by John Smith.

Mr Smith's recipe for recovery is to raise the budget deficit even higher and increase the Tories' public spending. He would also punnily tax the modestly prosperous. Yet he mysteriously claims that his costly tax rearrangements would make 80 per cent of families better off, so blowing to bits his argument that government borrowing should not be used to finance tax cuts. The Civil War between the Puritans and the Cavaliers has never ended. It causes conflict within the minds of almost every individual. The outright Puritans are more comfortable with Labour, the Cavaliers with the Conservatives.

Labour's charge that the Cavaliers have had much too jolly a time since 1979 and should now be walloped by higher taxes, supposedly to benefit the less fortunate, has some appeal. If it were true that spending much more than the government plans on, say, the NHS and education, would actually improve them, it might be justified. But the record proves that under Labour most extra spending has a zero or negative effect. Another tier of bureaucracy would be reintroduced into health care. The ever more successful Trust Hospitals within the NHS would be abolished. Pay for the powerful NHS unions to which Labour is in hock would soar, as would overmanning. The NHS, which now provides a remarkably good service, would end up providing a far worse one at much greater cost.

A similar disaster would befall Labour's boasted extra spending on education. Schools now running their own budgets would be forbidden to do so. The education reforms would be reversed, and extra spending from the centre would be more than swallowed up by reductions in efficiency and standards.

This would delight the Puritans but dismay the guilt-ridden Cavaliers who would wonder, too late, why they had used their votes to let it happen. Labour opposes the "immorality" of making money through owning shares. So the newly-privatised industries would be hobbled, to become as profitless as possible. Labour has resisted every move to widen house ownership, still preferring houses to be built and owned by councils, whose direct labour costs are far above those of private enterprise.

Labour persuades the undecided voters that it is the forward-looking party of the future and that the Tories are backward-looking traditionalists. Yet the Tory manifesto offers exciting future changes. Labour thumps the socialist drums of yesteryear, down in union leaders deciding economic policy at No 10. Every significant change proposed by Labour is dammingly regressive. Posing as the friend of business, Labour intends to shower public money on undertakings thought too risky by private investors but which seem a good "punt" with voters' money.

The Tories must wake from their lethargy and proclaim their lasting achievements in lifting Britain from decline since 1979 — achievements which will be magnified by the coming recovery. Many undecided voters are forgetful, blind and deaf. Mr Major, whom a substantial majority want as prime minister, must use searchlights and loudhailers to rouse them to reality.

# Burning our money in the classroom

Opposition calls for more cash won't buy better schools, says Janet Daley

**D**oes education improve when more money is spent on it? Both opposition parties say that it does, and the electorate seem to believe them. But a feature of London life in the 1970s and '80s was the migration of parents from Labour boroughs which spent more than the national average on schools, to Conservative ones which spent less but achieved higher educational standards.

Now that moving house has become almost impossible, parents (shadow education spokesman Jack Straw among them) are simply sending their children out of Labour boroughs to schools in the closest Tory authority which accepts educational evacuees. Others withdraw their children from state schools to send them to private primaries which have far fewer facilities — scarcely more than rooms full of desks with blackboards at the front — in order to find teaching which does not waste their children's time and insult their intelligence.

Underfunding, like everything else, is relative. Before we gave up

on a state primary school which wasted weeks on diffuse, incoherent "projects", my daughter had discovered a cupboard full of personal calculators which had never been unpacked. This same junior school for a very low-achieving London borough which constantly complained of "lack of resources" also owned a professional smoke-making machine, which had been used once for a school play.

We desperately need to know whether what is now accepted as "the crisis in our schools" is due to underfunding or to the deliberate dismantling of traditional forms of teaching which was engineered by Labour authorities in cooperation with the teaching unions. If the latter, then Labour's successful hijacking of education as a campaign issue is a big lie of staggering proportions.

Anecdotal evidence comes into its own when we look at the claims of political parties that money put into education is always money

well-spent. When I worked in higher education, I was struck by its strange financial logic. Before polytechnics were freed from local authority control, they had no responsibility for their own finances. Nor did they have any decision-making power over how budgets were allocated. When it is in no one's interest to save money, because underspending the allotted budget will cause it to be cut in the next financial year (and one is not free to move funds from one category to another), looking for bargains does not count as a virtue. Thus, it was an open secret among suppliers that the public purse was effectively bottomless.

Education, which tends to equate extravagance with quality, is a sitting duck for this kind of abuse. I remember an eager young technical assistant just arrived from industry who was startled to discover that the poly was being charged twice the price for steel rod that he had been paying at a private firm. The

embarrassed head of department had never encountered such a complaint before. He said that if the assistant was worried about it, he could ring the firm himself. He did exactly that. After some angry bargey, in which he made it clear that he was familiar with the industrial price of steel rod, the supplier agreed to reduce his charge, but threatened, "We'll just put it on the bill somewhere else." Education is where we make

cation price, it seemed, was

almost twice as high. When the principal protested, the rep turned sulky. "You're ILEA," he muttered petulantly, "what does it matter?" Whereupon, it was explained to him that the college was not part of the ILEA but a self-supporting business surviving entirely on students' fees, and a compromise was reached.

It is precisely this kind of waste that the Conservative policy of local management of schools is designed to stop. Although Labour politicians have now accepted this form of devolved power, they still talk about "resources" as if they were the final answer to all educational problems, thereby obscuring what should be the real argument.

If we want to know what is really going wrong in schools, we must look at the ways in which they have changed most over the past thirty years: insisting that every child reinvent the wheel through personal discovery, and

wasting the energies of teachers

# Muckraking in Little Rock

AUTH/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

All that stands between Bill Clinton and the Democratic nomination is his past, writes Peter Stothard

**R**obin Sisson, this year's Arkansas "state sweetheart", is waiting outside Bill Clinton's office wearing a pink party frock, a purple sash over her shoulder and a paste flora in her hair. A journalist asks what she thinks of the man who now looks likely to be the Democratic presidential nominee and the most distinguished Arkansan in history. Her lip wrinkles in distaste. "Vote for him? He's the fastest zipper in the South," she says, before quickly resuming her rosebud pose and straightening her sash.

This tiny scene is one of hundreds being enacted this week in Little Rock. The demure 17-year-old Ms Sisson has no direct knowledge of Governor Clinton's personal life. But she thinks that she knows, and there are dozens of reporters and Republicans here trying to prove that she is right.

"That is no ordinary governor," says Mr Sisson admiringly as he looks at the 34-year-old Clinton face, "that is a future president."

Mr Gregg is not so sure. Although the young ex-governor looks confident enough to have his eyes on the White House,

the painter has also captured the essence of "Slick Willie".

A fellow visitor to the capitol, 35-year-old Jon Gregg, says he supports Bill Clinton. But nevertheless, he offers to show me Gennifer Flowers' apartment, the gubernatorial jogging route lined with black prostitutes, the "Chicken House" of the infamous poultry lobby, and the hotel swimming pool where a local rock-groupie claims a frustrated bikini-clad encounter.

Welcome to the "Little Rock Scandal Tour". This is where would-be Pulitzer prizewinners and ambitious White House aides begin. The best newspapers have sent their best battalions. The Bush-Quayle campaign has its scouts. This year's Democratic race is now down to two runners, Bill Clinton and his past. The closer he comes to the nomination, the greater the rewards of bringing him down.

This influx of muckrakers has caused much resentment in a town of only 170,000 people, where everybody knows every-

thing. Like so many American inner



city relics, this is not sited where its inhabitants would choose to live today. It sits in the Quapaw district, like a shocked aunt amid shanty dwellers, bohemian yuppies and car-dumps ringed by razor-wire. The governor's jogging route begins here and crosses the interstate highway to the McDonald's hamburger restaurant, where Mr Clinton likes to have a coffee. Could he have met prostitutes here, as a supermarket magazine has claimed? "Yes," says Mr Gregg, "but then for ten dollars a hundred people here would say they had slept with the Pope."

On the way stands Quapaw Towers, a 12-storey apartment block surrounded by long grass, where Gennifer Flowers lived. Convenient for tykes, but noisy, concludes Mr Gregg. He is

dubious about Gennifer Flowers' story of a 12-year affair. Perhaps they passed "like ships in the night", but Governor Clinton could have made those taped *Star* magazine telephone calls even if he hardly knew her. "She had been linked to him in a lawsuit. Sure he would have rung her. Down here politicians talk to anyone. That's what the Washington reporter doesn't understand."

A few blocks away towards the Arkansas River is the round red-brick office of Hillary Clinton's Rose law firm, a mecca for the better class of muckrakers who have been investigating conflicts of interest in the handling of Arkansas state business.

"It's almost impossible here for businesses not to be involved with each other and the state, but I'd

be amazed if they find more than a hill of beans," says Mr Gregg. I ask about the poultry lobbyists' HQ, where Governor Clinton used to chew chicken wings after work from time to time. "It would be a great spot on the tour if you could get into big boss Don Tyson's place," says my guide. It's a model of the Oval Office, with brass eggs for door knobs. But, apart from the links you would expect between the governor and the biggest business in the state, I doubt there's much to stand.

Our tour ends at the Riverfront Hilton, where Connie Hamzy, a celebrated Little Rock groupie with a preference for rock drummers, once described a poolside proposition from the governor. In the *Penthouse* magazine version, the venue sounded like Beverly Hills. In reality, the pool is a small, cramped feature of a small, cramped hotel, a dirty blue stain on a brick floor. The bar, however, is big enough for busloads of scandal-seekers. Its best boom days may be yet to come.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

**O**ver the past week, a good many people have been writing in to ask me two questions that have been troubling them. The first question is, "Who exactly are all these unnamed close friends of the royal family, intimates of the royal family, sources close to the palace, palace insiders and inner members of the royal circle?" The second question is, "Can anyone apply to be one?"

Perhaps surprisingly, the answer to the second question is yes. Fleet Street holds regular auditions for members of the general public to fill these important posts. No special knowledge is required, but a lively imagination and an ability to make a little go a long way are both essential. Last week, I went along to one such audition to find out all about it. More than five hundred people were applying for a spare post as a "source close to the palace".

The audition began with a loud sneeze from behind a closed door: "Achoo!" Applicants were then invited to interpret what they had heard.

"Hah chew," was the reply of a Miss Massingberd from Middelessex. "The Duke of Edinburgh is so furious at the indiscretions of his family that he is threatening to eat his hat. Frankly, I'm flabbergasted. If only he had sent them to Eton, this would never have happened."

"Next!" said the producer running the audition, a senior executive on *The Daily Mail*.

"A choo-choo," said Mr Holden from Halifax. "Poor

Princess Beatrice has been pleading with her mother, the tragic Duchess of York, for a toy train."

"Next!" said Ms Seward from Swansea. "Down in the meadows, Prince Charles has started talking to farmyard animals to encourage them to give birth to more lambs."

"Next!"

"Hate you," said a Mrs Whitaker from Romford. "These were the words heard ringing around the palace in the early hours of the morning. And they were words, in the opinion of this source close to the palace, that spelt an end to a Right Royal Dream."

"Brilliant!" exclaimed the producer. "The job's yours!"

The next vacancy on offer was for an intimate friend of the royal family. More than two thousand ordinary members of the public had applied for this arduous post. The intimate friend is required to reveal exclusive stories about the royal family twice a day during the week, rising to four times a day at weekends, with an extra six in times of trouble. He or she is also expected to add a sympathetic personal note of regret, surprise or outright dismay.

The audition started with the word "Hello" spoken from behind a closed door. Applicants were invited to offer their expert interpretations.

First up was Mr Benson from Barking. "Hed low," he said. "The Duke of Edinburgh has once again exploded at Fergie's

### Tables turned

DIRTY TRICKS may have been in short supply in this election, but the recriminations were thick in the air on Sunday night when Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, and Des Wilson, the Liberal Democrat campaign director, found themselves dining at the same restaurant.

Wilson was the first to arrive at Joe Allen in Covent Garden, his favourite restaurant, but he was dismayed to find that his customary corner table was reserved. He made his displeasure known, and reluctantly accepted an alternative table for his party, consisting of Ollie Gredner, the party's press officer, Dick Newby, one of Paddy Ashdown's aids, and Alec McGivern, a party official.

The restaurant is not a noted haunt of politicians, but is famous for its theatrical clientele. As Wilson and his team tucked into their American-style meals and discussed strategy for the week ahead, they kept an eye on their favourite table. Which star of stage or screen had squeezed them out?

After about half an hour, a familiar figure arrived with a brace of beautiful women in tow. It was certainly a star of the screen, for the Tory party chairman has hardly been off *The Nine O'Clock News* and *Newsnight* for the past fortnight. Taking a rare evening off, Patten was dining with two of his daughters.

"Next!"

"He'll owe!" reported Miss Helliker from Hornchurch.

"Months of exasperation came bubbling to the surface when the Duke of York was heard swearing late last night. An intimate friend of the royal family, who heard this unashamed outcry described it as 'most regrettable in the circumstances'."

"Next!"

"Hello Oh!" reported Miss Helliker from Hornchurch. "Months of exasperation came bubbling to the surface when the Duke of York was heard swearing late last night. An intimate friend of the royal family, who heard this unashamed outcry described it as 'most regrettable in the circumstances'."

"Next!"

"Hah chew," said Mr Whitaker from Romford. "These were the words heard issuing from the mouth of the duchess at a family crisis meeting attended by the Lord Chancellor and fifty representatives of the legal profession at the palace last night.

"It's terrible that it should have come to this," commented an intimate friend of the family.

"You're hired!" shouted the producer. "Now, could we have all the senior members of the royal family on the right of the stage and all the highly-placed observers on the other. We've got three thousand of you to get through by lunch, so your co-operation would be appreciated."

Unaware of the consternation he had caused, Patten wandered over for a friendly chat. No one was rude enough to mention the negotiating terms for a hung parliament. "I am just trying to reacquaint myself with my daughters," said the Tory campaign manager amiably. Wilson was also determined to live up to his

raphy of H.G. Wells. "It was either the House of Lords or *Tribune*, so there really wasn't much choice."

When he arrived, he was greeted by two members of staff, Sheila Noble and Sheila Marsh, who used to work with him 30 years ago and are still on the paper.

"The two Sheilas have treated me wonderfully. They made it feel like coming home," says Foot. "They both look younger and more beautiful than ever."

Labour HQ, which possesses a dish and says it will be tuned in.

Others on the campaign trail have even been forced to change their arrangements in order to watch.

Jeffrey Archer, who will be staying in Edinburgh tonight before meeting the prime minister there tomorrow morning, says: "When I found my hotel did not have satellite TV, I had no option. I have moved to one that does."

● Labour strategists missed a trick at the Bafta awards. As Glenda Jackson came down the stairs with her escort Kevin Wilkinson, the deputy chairman of Bafta, a gust of air sent her dress billowing up just like Marilyn Monroe in *Some Like It Hot*. "It could have been the glamour shot which won Labour the election. There is not a paper which would not have put the picture on the front," said a witness. Alas, three photographers were looking the other way.

### A born Tory

THE arrival of Harold Macmillan's great-grandson has ensured that the Tories have already won one election contest. David Faber, grandson of Supermac and Tory candidate for Westbury, has been competing furiously in the fatherhood stakes with Paul Macdonald, his Liberal Democrat challenger. Their wives have been competing to produce the first election baby. Faber won the contest at the weekend, when his wife Sally, gave birth to Henry, who weighed 7 lbs. at London's Portland Hospital.

Faber only just made it back from campaigning in the constituency for the birth. Spontaneously, Macdonald was among the first to offer congratulations. "I am very pleased for them. Perhaps now he has won one battle he will let me win the other."

Although arrangements have not been finalised, plans are also in hand for a Downing Street reception when the team returns. Neil Kinnock is believed not to have satellite television at home, but he will be kept up to date by



leader's insistence that the Liberal Democrats should rise above the slanging tactics of the two main parties. Despite his previous complaints he did not even mention the matter of the table.

Liberal Democrat aides afterwards were less restrained. "The Tories may be unleashing their dogs of war," said one of Wilson's companions, "but surely even Norman Tebbit would hesitate at stealing a man's restaurant table."

The restaurant is not a noted haunt of politicians, but is famous for its theatrical clientele. As Wilson and his team tucked into their American-style meals and discussed strategy for the week ahead, they kept an eye on their favourite table. Which star of stage or screen had squeezed them out?

After about half an hour, a familiar figure arrived with a brace of beautiful women in tow. It was certainly a star of the screen, for the Tory party chairman has hardly been off *The Nine O'Clock News* and *Newsnight* for the past fortnight. Taking a rare evening off, Patten was dining with two of his daughters.



## OUT OF AFRICA

Jean-Marie Le Pen's relative success in the French regional elections at the weekend may be followed by a neo-fascist upsurge in the Italian general election on April 5. Similar movements have developed in Austria and the former East Germany and are latent in western Russia and its former satellite states. Is the far right once again on the move in Europe?

The answer can only lie in the correct analysis of the catalyst in each case. This catalyst is a widespread alarm, shared by electors on both the left and the right, at mass immigration into Western Europe, legal and illegal. But the assumption that the attitudes which disturb Europe in 1992 are identical to the evil ideology that overwhelmed Europe in the late-1930s is that most dangerous of prophecies, the self-fulfilling kind.

The French Socialists' recent demobilisation of Le Pen helped bring about his party's 12.4 per cent share of the national vote. It was an object lesson in how not to meet the challenge of the contemporary far-right. The stress arising from immigration into Western Europe, from east or south, is not just a fantasy of the French National Front or Italian Social Movement or Austrian neo-Nazis. It arises from a sense of cultural disparity and incompatibility, which happens when population movements take place too fast. To call a French housewife a racist because she is driven to distraction by the midnight smells of Arab cooking from the apartment of her Algerian neighbour is simply not fair.

Certainly racism underpins much of M Le Pen's appeal, but the socialists send into his camp plenty of voters concerned only about the importance of being and feeling French, by place of birth and nationality, language and culture; and of France staying recognisably French, rather than in many regions virtually Muslim. Such concern may be chauvinist and hidebound, but it is not necessarily racist. It is an expression of pride in national identity.

France is at present struggling to absorb some four million recent immigrants from North Africa, more than Britain is conceivably contemplating. To describe as racist

all those resisting such an influx — one that may come to haunt Britain as a much slower influx did in the 1960s — is dangerously unhelpful. A concern for the proper handling of immigration into a modern welfare state must be distinguished from the evils of Hitlerism or the Ku Klux Klan. Relief from the stress of cultural incompatibility must not be permitted even to seem to depend on a victory for racist fascism.

The spectre which is aroused by the present revival of the far-right in Europe is the racism defined and practised by Hitler. But the "racial hygiene" theories of the social-Darwinist Eugene Fischer — which Hitler studied in prison after his Munich putsch and adopted wholesale into *Mein Kampf* — are now confined to a lunatic fringe. Early genetic theory promoted such views, just as contemporary genetic theory has thoroughly discredited them. To an astonishing degree — and varieties of skin colour notwithstanding — the human race has been found to be genetically uniform as if all humankind was descended from one parent.

Since earliest times, humankind's movement away from its African origins has been a source of conflict. But the pace of change was slow, suggesting it was more often accomplished peacefully by assimilation and inter-marriage than by conquest. As human groups continue to move round and between continents, these are still the principles by which such movements should be governed. Modern democracies with highly developed social market economies are likely to experience a permanent tension between an economic need for cheap labour and a social resistance to rising dependency rates.

There is always likely to be a critical level of immigration above which sharp resistance is generated in the host community. Restraining movement below that level is an unavoidable obligation of government and one that governments of all parties have accepted in Britain since (and before) the war. Controlling migration, whether in France or Britain or in the European community as a whole, is not racist. The racist cause is only helped by pretending the opposite.

## LABOUR'S INDUSTRY

Does Labour have any answer to the balance of payments deficit for February of £750 million announced yesterday? The deficit is alarming, since a recession is supposed to restrain demand for imports. At this stage in the trade cycle, the "Tories" supply-side asceticism should have suppressed costs and enabled exports to be doing better than imports. That this is not the case gives the Tories little to shout about. But they are not shouting: Labour is.

Neil Kinnock yesterday launched Labour's manifesto for manufacturing industry. Over the years, Labour has had a romantic attachment to manufacturing. The traditional purpose of Labour was to advance the interest of the great unions once concentrated in that sector, though the party has since also become the champion of public-sector direct labour where its strength is now greatest.

Today manufacturing is more about microchips than anvils. Labour's continued claim that manufacturing is somehow more virtuous or more fundamental to the economy than what it calls "Mickey Mouse" service industries is simply archaic. There is no particular reason for Labour to favour those who work in manufacturing over those who often work harder for less in the service sector. But manufacturing remains a good test of whether the party is concerned for private-sector prosperity. And if there is a trade gap to fill, a strong manufacturing sector is necessary to fill it.

In some particulars, Labour policies might do some good. Its emphasis on training for skill now reflects the conventional wisdom. The party intends to ensure that firms that fail to invest in training cannot just steal skills from firms that do. The introduction of enhanced tax incentives would encourage industry to invest early in recovery, though the Institute for Fiscal Studies recently pointed out that this is "an extremely expensive way of generating a small amount

of new activity." And Labour has shed the worst of its big-union baggage.

Some anachronistic interventionism persists: Britain is to be blessed or cursed with regional development agencies, a national investment bank and technology trusts. But the renationalisation threat seems to have all but evaporated. There is no hint of planning agreements, or of the disastrous practice of ministers trying to "pick winners" DeLoire style. For this relief, industry may offer up many thanks.

But Labour has other burdens it is eager to impose. The unions will still have to operate within a framework of law, but the right to manage will be eroded by the acceptance of the European social charter. Industrial costs will be increased thereby, witness the sufferings of competitors in Germany, France and Spain. The national minimum wage, though its main direct effect will be on pay in low paid service trades, can hardly have a benign impact on manufacturing. The "animal spirits" of the entrepreneur will scarcely be stirred by John Smith's tax regime.

This might be more endurable if Labour now had a remotely plausible macroeconomic package. The party has committed itself as a talisman of its pro-bility to the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. Sterling will be taken, as swiftly as may be, into its narrow band. Add this to the current high rate of public borrowing, and include further borrowing as an incoming Labour government forgoes privatisation proceeds, and the road leads straight to higher interest rates.

Two of these three disadvantages may arise equally with the Conservatives, but the Labour combination presents manufacturing industry, in the Patten parlance, with a "triple whammy": an uncompetitive exchange rate, higher direct costs and more expensive borrowing. Nothing could be better designed to perpetuate the difficulties now facing British industry.

Perhaps the way to put the beef back into manufacturing industry is not through devising new investment allowances or through squeezing more productivity from the grumbling artisan, but through tribology. The campaign to encourage industry to pay attention to tribology, launched yesterday, calculates that it can save British industry £1.5 billion a year. The word means the science of reducing wear and tear, of studying interacting surfaces in relative motion, with friction, wear, lubrication and the design of bearings.

Isaac Newton discovered the laws of gravitation by observing an apple falling from a tree in his garden. If there had been bananas around in 1666 and Isaac had then gone out and slipped on one, he might have discovered the laws of tribology three centuries before they were formally disclosed to an astonished world. Most machines with parts in motion rubbing against each other can be improved by tribology, usually in the form of a squirt of oil.

However, not all mechanical moving parts are necessarily improved by lubrication. Lubricity is the last quality required in clutches, brakes, and tyres. If the interface between the sole of the shoe and the carpet were efficiently lubricated, nobody would be able to move from one productive endeavour to another, assuming he had slithered to the one in the first place.

Tribology was a British discovery, invented by a working party of lubrication technolo-

gists set up by the old Ministry of Technology which reported in 1966. It coined its name after consultation with the editor of *The Oxford English Dictionary*. The word ought to be a success in Britain, since it has a built-in cultural indicator. Linguists pronounce it with a short i, as in "rib"; scientists prefer the long i, as in tribe. Because the science is multi-disciplinary, embracing engineering, metallurgy, chemistry and others, it has (like probability theory) been foolishly and expensively neglected in the British engineering curriculum.

As machines grow smaller, more heavily worked and usually more costly to maintain, it becomes more important to reduce wear and keep them running smoothly. In space and nuclear engineering, sending a man with an oil-can into space to lubricate the works is prohibitively expensive. The tribology needs to be right to start with.

There is nothing new in this. Simple is beautiful. For want of oilcan or ball-bearing a war is lost. Tribology should tell us why one shoelace always breaks before the other, or why bits keep falling off Concorde. Great technological discoveries tend with hindsight to be irritatingly obvious. If every attic were stuffed with polystyrene, it would reduce the heating bills of the nation dramatically. So would the wearing of pullovers to work. Tribology may be a daff word. But it might keep the wheels of industry turning to more advantage than the financial manoeuvres of accountants and politicians.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### The Yorks, the public and the press

From Mr Nicholas Francis

Sir, In my lifetime there have been three royal weddings. There are now two royal separations. Should the public funding of such weddings be reviewed?

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS FRANCIS,  
29 Bedford Row, WC1.  
March 18.

From Mr Andrew Dyke

Sir, You say, in your editorial today, that the British people has long sensed a security in having an extended family as its symbolic head of state rather than some passing and partisan president". But what is the people to make of a family with apparently such scant regard for duty and for the importance of lasting marriage bonds? How can we continue to respect people who display the moral code of commoners rather than royalty?

Presidents can at least be elected out of office when they cease to behave properly. And they pay their taxes.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW DYKE,  
40 Compton Road,  
Winchmore Hill, N21.  
March 20.

From Mrs Avril Walker

Sir, How sad that the Duke and Duchess of York should choose the easy way out of their marriage problems as do many thousands of commoners every year. How much more difficult, and selfless, it would be to remain together and work at it, not only for their children's sake but for themselves as royalty.

Yours faithfully,  
AVRIL WALKER,  
3 Boxgrove Avenue,  
Guildford, Surrey.  
March 19.

From Mr James Kirkman

Sir, Yesterday you reported on the marital problems of the Duke and Duchess of York on pages 1, 2, 3, 16, 20 and page 1 of the Life & Times section. On page 17, you had the sense to write an editorial which concluded "That the royal couple's former happiness was so public in no way diminishes their right to be private. Now that the ending of their relationship has been recorded, the privacy of their pain should be respected".

These laudable sentiments seem somewhat pointless when today we are treated to further articles on the same subject on pages 1, 3, 8, 14 and 18. Congratulations on keeping them out of the Sports section, or have I missed something?

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES KIRKMAN,  
46 Brompton Square, SW3.  
March 21.

Election: the issues

From Lord Watkinson, CH

Sir, Now that businessmen have expressed their political preferences in your correspondence columns (March 17, 18, 19, 20) may I append a comment from one who has been involved, as a businessman or politician, in every general election since 1945.

The outstanding feature of this election seems to be the inward-looking issues chosen by the opposition parties to lead their campaigns. These seem to imply that Britain cares nothing for the outside world. I wonder if they have got it right.

Do we really believe that it is of no importance who will be the British prime minister to preside over a critical six months in the evolution of the European Commission? Do we really fail to understand that transitional unemployment is part of the price that we have to pay if we are to get real recovery based on export performance? Do we swallow the myth that sterile arguments about the health service are more important than the reshaping of world trade under Gatt?

It was, Sir, *The Times* that

awarded me the accolade in 1950 of fighting a "possible marginal" as Conservative candidate for the new seat of Woking. It came right on polling day, as I believe that it will come right for John Major and his colleagues, as the country rejects this attempt to push into the margin so many important issues on which the future of our country depends.

Yours sincerely,  
WATKINSON,  
Tynne House, Shore Road,  
Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex.

From Mr M. S. Hunter-Jones

Sir, In her letter published today (March 19) Ms Janet Salmon agrees that businessmen have made large contributions to the Conservative party but cannot be regarded as "giving objective analysis on the economic competence of the three major parties".

This is strange logic. One gives to a political party, or any other cause, because one has belief in its comparative merits; one does not believe in its merits because one has given money to it.

Yours faithfully,  
M. S. HUNTER-JONES,  
59 Great Ormond Street, WC1.

Election: the minorities

From the Secretary of  
Democratic Left

Sir, You today reported Democratic Left's decision not to look for votes in this election and our campaign for tactical voting against the Tories as a

negative campaign.

The only thing that Democratic Left says "no" to is wasting votes on no-hope candidates, rather than using them to defeat the Tories. I suspect that people like the Conservative party chairman are going to be rather more worried by us campaigning for tactical voting in his constituency than by us standing a candidate which could just help him save his seat.

Could this be why Britain's largely pro-Tory press so inadequately reports the growing numbers across the country who want to get rid of the Tories and our undemocratic system and are prepared to do something about it?

Democratic Left wants an electoral system where people can vote for whoever they want and their votes will count. But reform can only begin once the Tories have been ousted, and we want to see reform, not just talk about it. We call on everyone who wants an end to Tory rule and a democratic electoral system, whether Labour, Lib Dem, Green, National-

ist or Democratic Left, to join us in putting aside party chauvinism to vote the Tories out.

Yours etc.,  
NINA TEMPLE, Secretary,  
Democratic Left,  
6 Cynthia Street, N1.  
March 20.

From Mr Charles Ehrlich

Sir, In a report published on March 12, the Anti-Federalist League was described as an "extreme right", "anti-European", "fringe group". I can assure you that the league is an all-party, mainstream organisation whose objective is merely the defence of British national sovereignty against the encroachments of European nationalism.

We are not anti-European; we merely have a vision of Europe which opposes its centralisation. We are not authoritarian: we believe in voluntary co-operation, the rights of individuals and the right of individual nations to safeguard their identities and vital national interest.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES EHRLICH (Secretary,  
Anti-Federalist Student League,  
London School of Economics  
and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2).

Business letters, page 23

### Priorities for future of environment

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, The forthcoming UN conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro makes it desirable to list topics and desiderata according to feasibility as well as importance. My own list is as follows:

1. Noxious emissions into the atmosphere and oceans, such as sulphuric and nitrous oxides, heavy metals, etc., and equally those damaging to the ozone layer, such as CFCs and methane. Sharply reducing all these is easily within our power at some expense, and a programme for such reductions could and should be agreed.

2. Carbon dioxide, while not in itself noxious, is thought to lead through its increasing concentration in the air (due to fossil fuel burning) to climate changes. But serious as such changes may be, a major increase in fuel burning is an essential consequence of the vital growth of Third World economies. Even heroic measures could only mildly reduce the speed of the increase of the carbon dioxide content of the air. I entirely favour otherwise sensible moves to reduce energy consumption, especially through improving the efficiency of energy use, but they are not going to reduce the rate of carbon dioxide growth by much.

3. The most worrying phenomenon of all is the loss of topsoil through erosion, which is largely concentrated in the developing countries. The importance of this is very great. Humanity can adjust, albeit with some pain, to changes in energy sources, again with some pain, but it cannot live without topsoil. Soil erosion must receive absolute priority.

What must be avoided above all is

that steps agreed because of 2 hinder amelioration of 3 and of 1 by measures which can be taken but often with extra energy consumption.

Yours faithfully,

HERMANN BONDI,  
Churchill College,  
Cambridge.

March 17.

From Mr Aubrey Meyer

Sir, The Department of Trade and Industry may now become the new home of the Department of Energy. Energy efficiency will go to the Department of the Environment. What must be avoided above all is that steps agreed because of 2 hinder amelioration of 3 and of 1 by measures which can be taken but often with extra energy consumption.

Yours faithfully,

AUBREY MEYER (Executive Director),  
Global Commons Institute,  
42 Windsor Road, NW2.

March 20.

This is a Conservative election pledge. The restraint of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK will therefore largely become the DTI's concern and when EC energy ministers meet to discuss EC strategy for emissions restraint, the UK will presumably be sending a trade and industry minister instead of an energy minister.

At the last such meeting in December, ministers conceded that the EC's contemplated measures (including the proposed energy tax) were inadequate. The Conservatives' scheme will hardly help. DTI might legitimately be called the Department of Economic Growth, with a brief directly in conflict with emissions restraint. It is this conflict of interests which is at the heart of the global warming crisis.

Global climate change is merely a symptom of economic growth via energy conversion and the consequent carbon dioxide emissions, and to give the energy brief to the DTI is to compound the problem, not to cure it. Do we believe that industry "self-regulation", aided by a possible energy tax, will produce effective emissions restraint?

In February, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advised deadlocked UN climate-change negotiators that "more far-reaching efforts are required than are currently contemplated (within the OECD) in order to achieve a major reduction of the rate of carbon dioxide increase in the atmosphere", European multi-national companies were threatening to decamp to the Third World to escape the EC's energy tax.

It is widely recognised world wide that the onus of creating strategy for emissions restraint — essentially a global strategy for equity and survival — now lies with the OECD. If this government is sincere in its commitment to the IPCC findings they could do worse than move the Department of Energy *en bloc* to the Department of Environment, while the DTI should be subject to the requirements of a DoE committed to those findings. This should be an election issue.

Yours etc.,

AUBREY MEYER

(Executive Director),  
Global Commons Institute,  
42 Windsor Road, NW2.



Forthcoming  
marriages

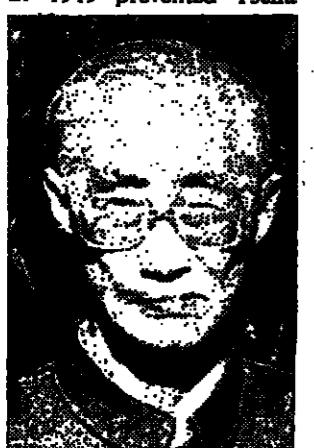
## OBITUARIES

## TSCHA HUNG

Tscha Hung, scholar of philosophy, died in Peking on February 27 aged 82. He was born in the middle Yangtze province of Anhwei, China, on October 12, 1909.

TSCHA Hung played a unique role in the development (or survival) of philosophy in modern China. He received his university education in science and philosophy in Berlin, Jena and finally in Vienna, where he was awarded his doctorate in 1934 for a thesis on the problem of causation in modern physics. The direction of Tscha Hung's philosophical life was formed in 1931-36. He was then a member of the Vienna Circle, the ruthless, iconoclastic school of logical positivists dominated by Schlick, Carnap and Neurath, most of whom were trained in the natural sciences and who aimed at "the elimination of metaphysics." They would achieve this by applying the verification principle to all statements. Statements neither empirically verifiable nor true by definition would be dismissed as meaningless, a class which would contain most traditional metaphysics and moral philosophy. In 1936, the youthful A. J. Ayer launched the Circle's doctrines, or a version of them, in Britain in his brief bombshell *Language, Truth or Logic*, and would spend the rest of his life modifying and retracting them.

The war with Japan, the civil war and the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949 prevented Tscha



## GEORGES DELERUE

Georges Delerue, French composer best known for his film scores, died following a stroke in Los Angeles on March 20 aged 67. He was born in Roubaix, northern France, in 1925.

GEORGES Delerue was one of the favourite composers of France's New Wave film directors. Truffaut used him for early successes including *Shoot the Pianist* and *Jules et Jim*. Before he had provided the score for Resnais' *Hiroshima, mon amour*. The music for Philippe de Broca's *The Man from Rio* came from Delerue and in the Sev-



Hung from becoming the Ayer of China. He returned there to teach philosophy at Chinese universities during the war, then spent 1945-47 as a research fellow at New College, Oxford. Throughout this period he was publishing papers on the philosophy of science and empiricism.

Tscha Hung returned from Oxford to China and from 1948-50 he did not leave it again. After a brief period teaching at Wuhan and Yengchong University in Peking, Tscha Hung was to be preserved at Peking University as head, first of the Seminar for the History of Foreign Philosophy, then of the Institute of Foreign Philosophy. He was made editor-in-chief of a series of anthologies of Chinese translations of classics of western philosophy, from the ancient Greeks to the logical empiricists. In thus transmitting the great tradition of western reason Tscha Hung made no concessions to ideological changes, although the earlier volumes were apparently accompanied by official prefaces by other hands, pointing out the errors of their contents.

In 1950, with the opening to the West, Tscha Hung was again allowed to visit Europe. Though by now in his seventies and relatively frail, Tscha Hung became, once more, an indefatigable traveller, charming his hosts with his philosophical acumen and acerbic wit. Through the 1980s he received visiting fellowships at Oxford, contributed to symposia on Wittgenstein and Schilpp-Neurath in Austria and lectured in Hong Kong. In 1984 Vienna University awarded him a second, honorary, doctorate on the 50th anniversary of his first one. In these years he also received some further recognition in his own country, including membership of the council of Peking University.

In their last years, Tscha Hung and Ayer were honorary presidents of the Simon-British Philosophy Summer School in Peking, whose success owed much to their distinguished patronage.

Tscha Hung is survived by his widow, Hong Ho Yuzheng.

John Ireland, Hollywood actor who did most of his best work in the fifties, died of leukaemia in Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, California, on March 21 aged 78. He was born in Vancouver on January 30, 1914.

JOHN Ireland was one of those borderline stars whose career, while well-respected and extensive, permitted him on the whole to play lesser roles in major productions and to star only in films close to Poverty Row. In common with several actors of the generation which emerged in Hollywood immediately after the Second World War Ireland began with a bang and ended, if not with a whimper, at least with a slow fade to black.

Even in his early days in films he was paradoxically placed. On the one hand he was giving excellent performances in serious films by respected directors (in 1949 he was nominated for a supporting Oscar for his appearance in Robert Rossen's *All the King's Men*), and on the other he was frequently in the gossip columns as an enthusiastic skirt-chaser, high-liver and macho tearaway. In 1959, when he was 45, he hit the headlines for his affair with the then 16-year-old Tuesday Weld. "If there wasn't such a difference in our ages I'd ask her to marry me. That and her mother are the only things that stop me." He also rebelled against the Production Code's demands about the type of male underwear to be worn on screen. John Ireland was an extrovert.

Perhaps these seeming inconsistencies were inevitable given his oddly heterogeneous earlier career. Though he was born in Canada his family moved to New York when he was still a child. He began performing, not on stage, but in a swimming pool, his husky physique recommending him as an active and decorative part of a water carnival. Soon he switched to dry land, however, and found work acting in stock companies and on Broadway specialising, surprisingly enough, in Shakespeare, for which his naturally clear articulation (no method, mumble, he) and resonant delivery fitted him very well.

He did not catch Hollywood's attention until he turned 30, but when he did he could hardly have asked for a more prestigious beginning: he appeared in rapid succession playing featured roles in Lewis Milestone's second world war equivalent to his earlier *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *A Walk in the Sun*, based on the Harry Brown novel, and John Ford's classic western *My Darling Clementine*. These were both in 1946 and, his presence being duly noted, Ireland went on to appear in more human roles in Howard Hawks' *Red River* and the Ingred Bergman *Joan of Arc*. He was also in Samuel Fuller's first film, *I Shot Jesse James* (1949) in which he was Bob Ford, the T who shot the outlaw.

Also in 1949 he made *All the King's Men* in which he played Jack Burden, the ruthless intellectual who becomes corrupt politician Willie Stark's right-hand man. For this last performance he won golden opinions and his only Academy Award nomination, for best supporting actor.

Ireland's looks and physique were a mixed blessing. They tended to get him cast as he-men and hatcher-men. Perhaps too frequently the latter. His facial expression, belying his personal good nature, could all too easily drop into a villainous sneer. For a while after *All the King's Men* he continued to appear in major productions like *Gunfight at the OK Corral*, *Party Girl* and Stanley Kubrick's *Spartacus*, but there he became increasingly lost in the crowd. His best work was done in much smaller productions like *Outlaw Territory* (1953) which he co-produced and co-directed with the distinguished cameraman Lee Garmes, or minimal budget Roger Corman productions like *Gun-*

*slinger* (1956). He also appeared to good effect opposite Joan Crawford in *Queen Bee* and this was remembered when she came to make *I Saw What You Did* (1965), her last Hollywood film, as a sexy menace was required.

Otherwise his working on several European-made spectacles like *55 Days in Peking* and *The Fall of the Roman Empire* seemed inevitably to lead to long periods in Italy and Spain making the kind of tatty international production which was often the last refuge of Hollywood's falling stars. One of his best later roles was in Dick Richards's lively remake of *Farewell My Lovely*, in which he was one of the suspicious characters surrounding Robert Mitchum's weary Philip Marlowe. Unfortunately, more characteristic titles were *Love and the Midnight Auto Supply* and *Kavik the Wolf Dog*.

Ireland was several times married, notably to Joanne Dru, who appeared with him in a number of films, including *Red River* and *All the King's Men*.

## CANON HAROLD LOVELL



However, Lovell's duties soon ranged far beyond their pastoral care. He became responsible for a large casualty clearing station, ministering to the wounded as they were stretchered from the trenches and, all too frequently, burying the dead. In common with many others serving in the grim conditions of Flanders, he sought refuge in Poperinge, where the Rev "Tubby" Clayton had founded Toc H in Talbot House. Lovell, who became a friend and admirer of Clayton, later started the Toc H movement in Jamaica and remained at the front.

active member until his death. In 1918 he managed to snatch a brief leave in England, in order to marry his boyhood girl friend, Mary Sargeant, by then the senior saleswoman in a London milliner's. He got back "more by crook than by hook" (as he later put it) through offering to look after a party of West Indians in need of hospital treatment for malaria. Lovell himself was to suffer from malaria throughout his life.

He had left Britain shortly before the outbreak of war, to train for the priesthood at a theological college in Kingston.

Born in Leyton, northeast London, he had first

come down to the church through the Boys' Brigade, but lacked the resources to go to college at home. Jamaica was offering, however, a free passage and place for British students in an effort to recruit more young Anglicans for its own churches. Its investment in Harold Lovell was a wise one because he was to spend most of his ministry on the island. After serving as curate at All Saints, Kingston, between 1914 and 1917, he returned from the war in 1919 to become rector of St Jude's and St Christopher's,

Stoneyhill, for three years and then rector of Halfway Tree from 1922 until 1949.

He was made an honorary canon of Kingston Cathedral in 1939 and a canon emeritus in 1950, following his return to this country on account of his wife's poor health. After serving briefly as curate at Bishop's Hatfield, Hertfordshire, then as rector for two years of Wyddial and Anstey, he became rector in 1952 of Escendon, a parish in the gift of the Marquess of Salisbury at nearby Hatfield House.

A convivial, pipe-smoking cleric with a twinkling eye, Harold Lovell became close to the Salisburys and, after his retirement in 1964, lived in a cottage on their estate. Barbara Cartland was another former parishioner and long-standing friend. Lovell's 100th birthday party was held in Hatfield House two years ago.

His continuing mental agility was recently demonstrated by two broadcasts he made on Radio 4. His wife, whom he met through the church, died in the 1980s—but not before they had celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary together.

## Church news

## Appointments

The Rev Allan Viller, Vicar, Ernehead: to be Vicar, Lindop Ste George & St John, Little Ouse, held with St Matthew (Bly).

The Rev Richard Webb, RECTOR,

Rougham and Beyton w. Hester and Rushbrooke to be Priests-in-charge, Woodbridge & St John (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Nicholas Whitehead, Assistant Curate, The Bourne, Parcham: to be Vicar, St Peter, Hersham (Guildford).

The Rev Alan Wilson, Vicar, Caversham St John: to be Rector, Sandhurst (Oxford).

## Resignations and retirements

The Rev Alan Arnold, Assistant Curate, Addlestone (Guildford): to retire as from 8 May.

The Rev Michael Brown, Vicar, St Peter & St Paul, Godalming (Guildford): to retire as from 30 September.

The Rev Jane Dunel, Deacon in the Barnby Team Ministry (Oxford): to retire as from 31 March.

The Rev Geoffrey Holman, Vicar, Wenvoe and Garon-on-Wolds and Kirkburn, and Rural Dean of Hartshill (York): to resign as from 1 November.

The Rev Philip Ind, Priest-in-charge, Hurley and Shubbings (Oxford): to retire as from 31 March.

The Rev Canon Peter Lloyd, Vicar, St Martin, Epsom (Guildford): to retire as from 31 July.

Following his installation in the Great Hall, he will confer honorary degrees on Mr John Briggs, pianist; Mr Peter Fletcher, managing director of Alfed Colloids; Sir Gordon Jones, chairman of Yorkshire Water; and Mr Frank Mumby, former lecturer in music at Leeds University and piano tutor to Sir Trevor Holdsworth.



Sir Trevor Holdsworth: Bradford's new chancellor

man of National Power, will be installed as Chancellor of Bradford University today.

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## EC snub delights seat of learning

By ROBIN STACEY

CAMBRIDGE has been dropped from the list of possible homes for the European Community's new environmental agency — to the local council's delight.

Cambridge City Council originally reacted with horror to the government's proposal that the university city would make an ideal centre for the new branch of EC bureaucracy. Councillors feared that playing host to the new headquarters would attract thousands of Eurocrats and environmental groups to the city, which is already struggling to cope with vast numbers of students and tourists.

Far from wishing to take on the whole of Europe's environmental problems, councillors felt they had their hands full coping with their own. Visitors to the new centre — designed to collate European environmental information — would inevitably bring more traffic problems and more pressure on the city's hard-stretched services.

Yesterday, after months of agonising, the European Commission announced that Cambridge was out of the running for the job. The EC's Environment Commissioner, Carlo Ripa di Meana, said the candidates had been whittled down to Copenhagen, Milan, Madrid and Seville. A final decision is still a long way off. France is refusing to endorse any of the candidates until Strasbourg is secured as the permanent site of the European parliament.

In response to pressure from Robert Rhodes James, then the local Conservative MP, the Labour-controlled council eventually grudgingly accepted the idea in theory, but envisaged for the centre not a prime city site tucked between a couple of Tudor colleges but an out-of-the-way suburban site somewhere on the road to Newmarket, in an area referred to as the "A45 corridor".

Cambridge would have made an ideal home for the centre in some respects. It is the headquarters of the British Antarctic Survey, the scientific body which discovered the hole in the ozone layer. But the council felt that as the most visited place in Britain after London, the medieval town simply could not take any more guests, no matter how worthy. Anything that would bring more tourists is viewed with suspicion.



Millinery mastery: models preparing to display hats and jewellery by Pip Hackett and Kay Minter designed to turn some heads at the Art in Fashion show which opens in London today. Materials used in the creations include shellfish and silk

## 24 walk away as plane crashes in snowstorm

Continued from page 1

that had apparently snapped off, a nosewheel and an engine remained on the runway, with the rest of the aircraft in pieces in the water.

The rescue effort was hampered by a rising tide that covered the entire fuselage.

One survivor, a woman aged 23 who asked to be identified only by her first name, Laura, said the plane rose a few feet then tilted to the left and hit the ground. There was a flash of lightning and the next thing she knew, she was floating in the water. "I opened my eyes but there was no plane over me," she said. "I was next to it." She was admitted to hospital with minor burns.

Patrick Silver, who lives near the airport, said he saw the crash through his living room window. "It slammed back into the ground, and then the fuselage burst into flames."

Investigators began their work confident they could determine the cause of the accident. The two flight recorders aboard were found and, al-

though the pilot was killed, the co-pilot was in stable condition in hospital.

USAir said last night that the wings were treated with a 55 per cent solution of ethyl glycol more than half an hour before the crash. "Our policy is that 20 minutes after the last de-icing the crew will check the surfaces themselves and decide whether they should de-ice or not. In bad conditions this can happen every ten minutes or, if they consider that it is not necessary, it can wait for up to 40 minutes. On this occasion the crew did not call for another de-ice."

Tom Powe, chairman of the Gas Consumers' Council,

said that people would take a dim view of the increase.

"British Gas made 72 per cent of its £1.5 billion profit last year in the monopoly domestic market. Salaries of this size seem totally inappropriate in privatised utilities."

Mr Boissier said that it could be argued that Mr Evans should be paid more. A survey by Labour Research showed that 133 top British executives earned more than £50,000 a year, and 49 earned more than £1 million.

## Gas chief gets 17.6% rise

Continued from page 1

Mr Evans' performance related bonus, to £84,510. It lifts the salary of the 64-year-old executive by £1,252 a week to £3,370 a week.

The decision was defended by the chairman of British Gas's salaries committee, Roger Boissier, who said: "In determining the chairman's pay we must have regard for salary levels in the international market in order to attract and retain the high calibre of talent needed to run one of the country's largest companies with worldwide interests."

Eddie Newall, national officer of the GMB general union, who represents 30,000 British Gas workers, said: "There is no justification, economically or morally, to pay the chairman more in a week than many of his staff earn in a year."

Rodney Bickerstaffe, chairman of the TUC's economic committee, said: "This is an obscene increase at a time of recession when customers on low pay and low incomes are struggling to pay their bills. It cannot be justified in any way."

Mr Brown said last night that he was challenging all monopoly utility chiefs to publish their salary levels and perks before the election so that the public could see the scale of privatised boardroom excesses and judge the

ineffectiveness of the current regulation powers to safeguard the public interest.

Labour's energy spokesman, Frank Dobson, said:

"This is another example of the sheer unrivalled greed which has been let loose by setting up privatised monopolies. "Privatisation has meant huge price increases for the customers and huge pay rises for the bosses. There is neither real competition nor effective regulation. Labour will put a stop to it."

Comment, page 23

## Tories and Labour in tax stalemate

Continued from page 1

the focus of their much-criticised campaign to attack the effects of Labour's tax policies on the skilled working class.

They argued that Labour's spending commitments would require tax increases for earners at all levels, so that the average personal tax increase would be £1,250 a year.

Mr Major continued to

## More efficiency? There's the rub

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

While many theories have been promulgated to account for Britain's industrial malaise, including the power of the unions, short-term profit taking by the City and a failure to innovate, a leading engineering institution is blaming it, albeit partly, on too much rubbing.

More than £1.5 billion is being lost every year to creaky machines, badly-dressed devices, simple design flaws and widgets that grind regardless rather than spin in low friction harmony, claims the Institution of Mechanical Engineers which yesterday launched its War On Wear campaign. Instead of worshipping Japanese-style management practices, the main word on corporate lips should be tribology.

Defined as "the science and technology of interacting surfaces in relative motion and of related practices", tribology comes from the Greek for "to rub".

The word was coined in the 1960s by Peter Jost, who chaired a government-backed lubrication education and research working group on the costs to industry of unnecessary wear and tear. He said yesterday that their findings, which showed that more one per cent of the nation's GDP was being wasted on mechanical friction, were ridiculous at the time.

This contrasted sharply with countries including Russia, America, China, France and Germany, who had been very specific at translating the benefits, he said. Mr Halligan said the findings from overseas showed that, for a relatively small outlay, huge returns were possible. "For every £1,000 of capital invested each year, the average return is £40,000 — in some industries the return could be much higher," he said.

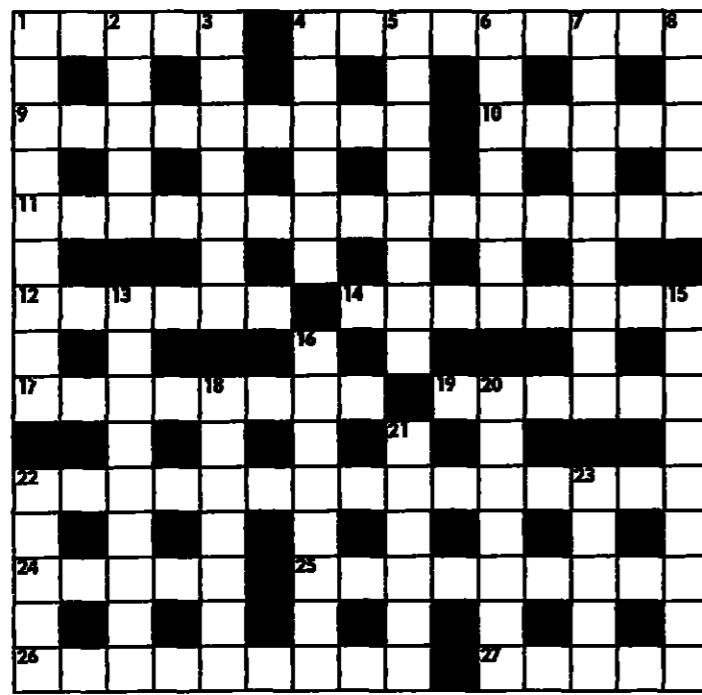
The tribology campaign is also emphasising improved safety, a reduction in pollution and lower energy bills. Under the campaign, which has the backing of the trade and industry department and industrial sponsors, including British Coal and Shell Oils, a telephone helpline has been established, video produced and regional seminars planned. The campaign is also being supported by leaflets containing case studies.

British Coal, for example, now use a technique on machines at the pit face. By sampling the state of the oil, researchers gain clues as to the extent of wear and tear being suffered by a machine. The company claims to be detecting three quarters of breakdowns before they happen.

Tribology Action Campaign: Industry Helpline, 071-973-1241.

Leading article, page 15

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,874



**ACROSS**

- Some learn to cope with a bird (5).
- Nickname thus applied to fuel (9).
- At once solid, spherical and injurious (4,1,4).
- Henry's installed, in pleasant, suitable position (5).
- Alter one's attitude and give an encore (4,7,4).
- I left the Spanish capital, returning to Delphi (6).
- An old-fashioned king at first changed imperceptibly (8).
- Correspond comprehensively, off and on (8).
- Retreating Englishman is inside the breakthrough (6).
- Andrew's pigeons determined to head south and seek wider horizons (6,4,5).
- Chamois heading off reptile ... (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,873

**SEAMAN OFF AND ON**  
G D B P L R R I  
REISSUE ACRETE  
A C O R G S A C  
PROCLAIMED SMEE  
H R U O E  
ERECTOR LEVERET  
A I U E E U  
PLATOON TERRIER  
V N A L T N  
KEEN EGGBEATERS  
H R J A U F R T  
ADAMANT SOPRANO  
K G L E T E T N  
IDEALIST ADHERE

25 ... in pain, heading us off (9).

26 Veronica has joined expedition — we will ... (9).

27 ... fit out expedition's leader, Sally (5).

**DOWN**

1 Tongue no longer available — it's put away (6,3).

2 To rouse means talking to a man (5).

3 Work hard getting pictures up on the screen, we hear (7).

4 Coach-building (6).

5 Kills with a look (6).

6 One grid could be cut (7).

7 Upper class aristocrat comes in uninvited to investigate the interior (2,7).

8 Article — note the subject (5).

13 Cattle are shaping to lock horns (9).

15 Improved appearance of sweet (including most of another) with inversion (7,2).

16 Dedicate everything "With love to Tom — East" (5).

18 Alone abroad and without a PA (7).

20 Wire had to be twisted into a rope (7).

21 Boy meets girl once in India (6).

22 Central European wife is absorbed in craft (5).

23 Indian politician — he acquired a name for turning up at football (5).

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

#### PODOSCAPH

a. A hiker's tea-room

b. A floating water shoe

c. A banjo

d. Fried

e. A species of protist

f. Allied to Rose by treaty

GRAPAUDINE

a. French savoury pancake

b. A wife and wicked woman

SERENO

a. A clear sky and sea

b. A night watchman

c. The Duke of Genoa

Answers on page 16

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

M-Ways/M4/M41

M-Ways/roads M1-Dartford T-

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West Country

Midlands

East Anglia

North-West England

Scotland

Northern Ireland

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Yesterday's puzzle No 18,873 was incorrectly numbered 18,879

Concise Crossword, page 9

Life & Times section

It will be cold everywhere, with a blustery, mainly northerly wind. South-eastern Britain will be cloudy with showers or rain. Most other eastern parts will also be showery, but with bright spells. Showers are likely to be wintry over hills, especially in the north. In the west and in Northern Ireland, many places will stay dry with some sunshine, but there may be a few showers, especially this afternoon. Outlook: cold with showers or more prolonged rain.

Midday: 1. Wind: 0-10mph; 2. Rain: 0-10mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: 5-10°C.

4pm: 1. Wind: 10-20mph; 2. Rain: 10-20mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: 4-9°C.

7pm: 1. Wind: 20-30mph; 2. Rain: 20-30mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: 2-7°C.

10pm: 1. Wind: 30-40mph; 2. Rain: 30-40mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -2-2°C.

Midnight: 1. Wind: 40-50mph; 2. Rain: 40-50mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -5-10°C.

1am: 1. Wind: 50-60mph; 2. Rain: 50-60mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -8-15°C.

4am: 1. Wind: 60-70mph; 2. Rain: 60-70mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -10-18°C.

7am: 1. Wind: 70-80mph; 2. Rain: 70-80mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -12-20°C.

10am: 1. Wind: 80-90mph; 2. Rain: 80-90mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -14-22°C.

1pm: 1. Wind: 90-100mph; 2. Rain: 90-100mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -16-24°C.

4pm: 1. Wind: 100-110mph; 2. Rain: 100-110mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -18-26°C.

7pm: 1. Wind: 110-120mph; 2. Rain: 110-120mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -20-28°C.

10pm: 1. Wind: 120-130mph; 2. Rain: 120-130mm; 3. Sun: 0-10%; 4. Temp: -22-30°C.

ficiency?  
the rub

- BUSINESS NEWS 19-28
- LAW TIMES 29-33
- LAW REPORT 32
- SPORT 34-38

# THE TIMES BUSINESS

TUESDAY MARCH 24 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

JOHN ANGUSON

## TODAY IN BUSINESS

### PRUDENT?

Prudential, the insurer that gambled on appointing an investment manager as chief executive, will know today whether painful decisions are beginning to pay off

Page 23

### ARGOS SLIDES

Competition among retailers has cut profits at Argos but has not dented expansion plans

Page 21

Tempus, page 22

### BAN LIFTED

Stora, the Swedish paper group, is to lift its ban on foreign shareholders as Bo Berggren steps up to chairman

Page 20

### BACK IN BLACK

The first reduction in bad debt provisions among the clearers put the Co-operative Bank back into the black

Page 21

### DRAWBACK

Brent Chemicals, which issued a profit warning in January, will draw on reserves to maintain its dividend

Page 28

### THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7203 (+0.0196)  
German mark  
2.8646 (+0.0027)  
Exchange index  
90.0 (+0.2)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share  
1910.8 (-5.7)  
FT-SE 100  
2441.0 (-15.6)  
New York Dow Jones  
3270.35 (-6.04)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge  
20239.60 (-54.51)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10.12%  
3-month Interbank: 10.7% 10.7%  
3-month eligible bills: 10.4% 10.4%  
US: Prime Rate 6.12%  
Federal Funds 3.1%  
3-month Treasury Bills 4.08-4.06%  
30-year bonds 9.9% 9.9% 10.1%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York:  
£ 5.7168 \$ 1.7150\*  
\$ DM 1.6705\*  
\$ Fr 2.8045 \$ Swf 1.5180\*  
\$ Ff 5.6335\*  
\$ Yen 22.63 \$ Yen 133.70\*  
Index 90.0 Index 65.3  
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# Stora to lift restrictions on foreign ownership

By COLIN NARBROOK

**STORA**, the Swedish pulp and paper group that claims to be the world's oldest joint stock company, is about to lift the restrictions on foreign ownership of its shares.

The dereliction is to put to the annual meeting on May 7, will be accompanied by a boardroom shuffle that represents the first withdrawal by Peter Wallenberg, son of Sweden's powerful financial-industrial dynasty, from an important chairmanship in the Wallenberg empire.

Stora, which has its origins in a copper mining company dating from 1288, is the forestry products arm of the Wallenberg network. Investor, the Wallenbergs' publicly listed investment company, holds 29 per cent of Stora, but in typically Swedish fashion, power has been exercised through control of the board.

Mr Wallenberg, aged 65, underwent heart surgery last year, but has made a full recovery. Peder Bonde, his cousin, is also scheduled to resign from the Stora board at the meeting.

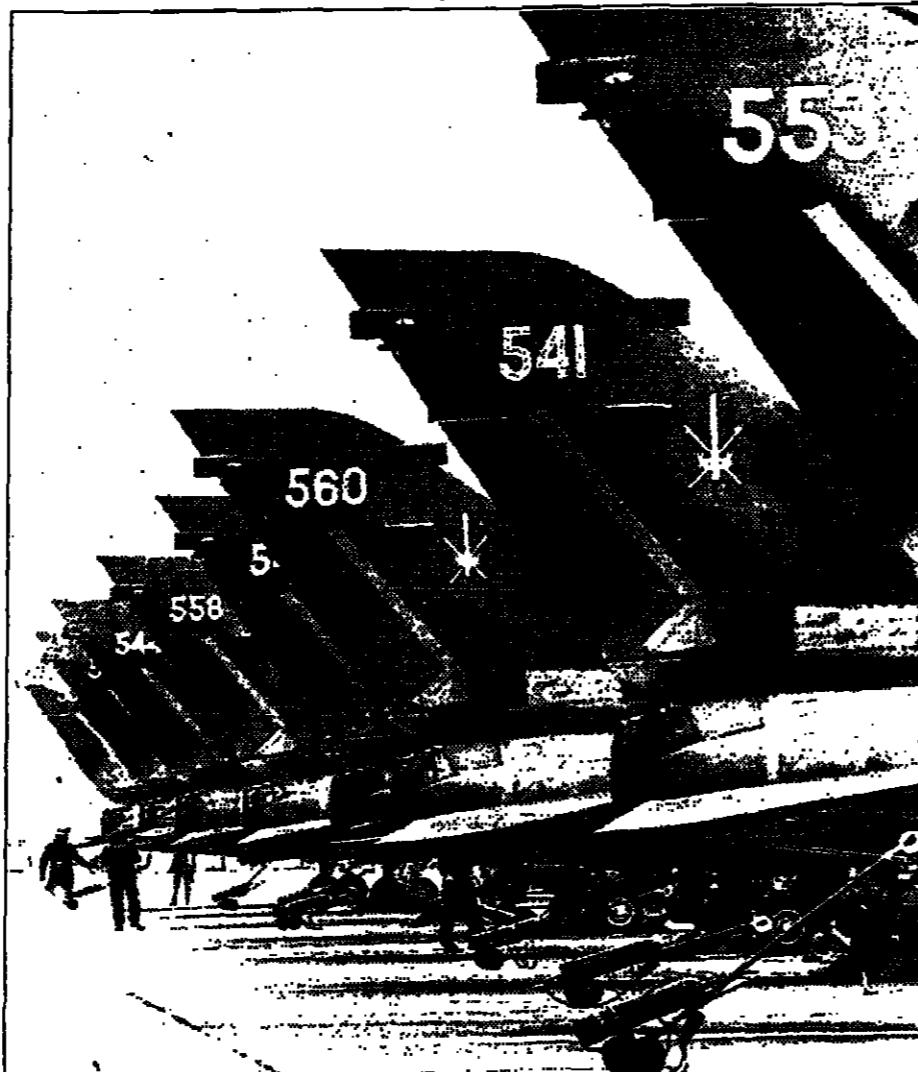
Mr Berggren, aged 56, president and chief executive, will become chairman. Mr Berggren, a corporate professional with no family connection, will remain chief executive for a transitional period.

Significantly, Mr Berggren was last month appointed vice-chairman of Investor.

While Mr Berggren has long been considered heir apparent to Mr Wallenberg, continuity of management is to be underlined by the choice of Lars-Ake Helgesson, aged 50, as Mr Berggren's successor as president. He is also set to inherit the role of chief executive later. But the Wallenbergs have not withdrawn entirely. Waiting in the wings is Jacob Wallenberg, still in his thirties, who has been a board member since 1985.

In London last Friday, Mr Berggren and Mr Helgesson made no secret of the difficult time their company has been having with recession hitting many of its main markets. Pre-tax profits fell 61 per cent last year to Kr1.1 billion (£105.6 million), despite a 7.6 per cent climb in sales to Kr6.7 billion. But in the last four months, there was a pre-tax loss of Kr9.7 million, against a Kr1.1 billion profit in the same period of 1990.

Mr Berggren said this year "may be the bottom" for Stora. Given the cost-cutting measures and disposal programme it has undertaken, he expects the company to look "very attractive" in the years ahead.



Tail-end: UK weapons makers are said to lag in converting facilities to civil uses

## Strategy urged for arms switch

**BRITAIN'S** defence manufacturers are falling behind in the international race to replace weapons factories with civil facilities because the government has failed to provide a clear lead, Oxford Research Group says (Ross Tienan writes).

Delays in developing a strategy are costing jobs, because a switch of resources

would lead to increased prosperity and employment, according to a report by Oxford's Tony Voss. His study, *Converting the Defence Industry*, calls for government initiatives to assist redirection of Britain's biggest industry.

Oxford Research Group, which is funded by charities, specialises in defence and

security issues. In an analysis of parties' defence plans, Dr Voss concludes that defence spending might contract faster under a Conservative administration than a Labour one.

The report says government must give clearer signals about procurement plans to enable industry to adapt.

## Road to recovery mapped by TNT

By BRIAN BUCHANAN  
IN SYDNEY

TNT, the global transport group, expects its European operations to halve their losses this financial year and return to profit next year.

Sir Peter Abesel, chief executive and deputy chairman, said yesterday that the group also hoped to return to record levels of profit in the next few years. TNT posted an interim loss of Aus\$1.05 million last year.

Sir Peter was speaking at a conference here called to mark the completion of TNT's European joint-venture express freight deal with five national post offices. He said it would be four to six weeks before it was clear how the joint-venture company, GDI Net BV, was operating. But it was already exceeding expectations.

Sir Peter said Ansett Transport Industries, the airline jointly owned with The News Corporation should continue to improve, but would still make losses in the year to June 30. "It's starting to straighten out as we were planning," he added.

He revealed that last week's announcement of a deal with Federal Express group, based in America, was not included in the calculations and would be a bonus.

No financial details of the joint-venture company were released, but Sir Peter said it was capitalised at one unit of debt for one unit of equity, with US\$240 million for each partner in the shareholders' funds.

## Bemrose makes more from reduced turnover

**BEMROSE** Corporation, the security and promotional printer, lifted pre-tax profits 3 per cent to £5.06 million in the year to end-December, despite a £2 million fall in turnover to £48.6 million. There was an extraordinary charge of £1.4 million, relating to closures and disposals. Gearing rose to 57 per cent (44 per cent). A maintained 7.45p final payout makes an unchanged 11.75p.

Roger Booth, the chief executive, said: "Bemrose is performing strongly through the recession, and is well placed to take advantage of any economic upturn."

## Astec loses £4.8m

**ASTEC** (BSR), the information technology and power supply products group, blames "the worst trading conditions for years" for the dive in trading profits to £800,000 (£7.7 million) in the year ended December. The company reports a pre-tax loss of £4.8 million, compared with a previous £4 million profit, after an exceptional charge of £2.2 million and net interest charge of £3.4 million (£3.7 million). The company is passing its total dividend (0.7p). Astec (BSR) says the outlook for 1992 is uncertain, but that gearing has been reduced to 39.6 per cent (54.8 per cent).

## Sunleigh goes aboard

**SUNLEIGH**, the USM quoted leisure products group, is taking a controlling interest in Gavel Securities, a leading maker and distributor of Laser and Dart sailing dinghies and catamarans. Sunleigh is paying about £1.6 million for 62.6 per cent of Gavel, financed through a placing and open offer of 28 million new shares on a 7-for-16 basis, at 8p per share, with institutional investors to raise about £1.83 million. Sunleigh also unveiled increased pre-tax losses of £2.04 million for the year to end-December, against a deficit of £1.81 million. Turnover, affected by disposals, fell to £9.09 million (£19.9 million). Loss per share is trimmed to 3.15p (4.51p loss). Again there is no dividend.

## Lloyd Thompson up

**INCREASED** brokerage income helped Lloyd Thompson Group, the insurance and reinsurance broker, to a 31 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £6.67 million in the six months to end-December. New clients, new business from existing clients and the retention of existing business enabled the group to increase brokerage income 27 per cent to £17.1 million. Peter Lloyd, chairman, said progress was being maintained in the second half and full-year results would reflect continuing growth in all the group's business areas. The interim dividend is being raised to 1.65p, against 1.35p last time. Diluted earnings climb from 4.65p a share to 5.7p a share.

	Bid	Offer	+/-	%		Bid	Offer	+/-	%		Bid	Offer	+/-	%		Bid	Offer	+/-	%		Bid	Offer	+/-	%	
ABERY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD	100	100	0.00	0.00		310.90	314.50	-0.70	2.5%		310.90	314.50	-0.70	2.5%		99.00	99.00	0.00	0.00		121.40	123.00	-0.40	3.3%	
BHF UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD	100	100	0.00	0.00		310.90	314.50	-0.70	2.5%		310.90	314.50	-0.70	2.5%		121.40	123.10	-0.40	3.3%		122.36	124.10	-0.40	3.3%	
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# Argos catalogues its first profits fall in five years

By COLIN CAMPBELL

**ARGOS**, the catalogue and retail chain demerged from BAT Industries in 1990, said retail competition in the Nineties would intensify and that only the strong would survive.

After reporting its first pre-tax profits setback in five years — showing a fall from £75.1 million to £62.1 million

in the year ended December — the group said current political and economic uncertainty made it difficult to predict conditions for 1992.

At the 1990 trading level, profits fell from £68.2 million to £55.4 million, but trading to date in the first quarter had shown "a small increase".

Argos said that, by the year

ended the group's chain would have expanded from 285 to more than 300.

The first of four Chester-

ton Home Furnishers pilot

stores opens in Mill Hill on

Thursday, and if by 1993 the

concept proves successful,

the chain will be expanded in

1994 and beyond.

Argos held average cash balances of £56 million (£48 million) from trading activities in 1991, and net interest earned last year was £6.65 million (£6.87 million).

The final dividend rises from 4p to 4.5p share, making 6.4p a share (6p) for the year.

Mike Smith, chief executive, said Argos would decide by mid-year into which of three European countries (Germany, France, or Spain) the group might expand.

Meanwhile, at-home costs

have been and will continue to be controlled.

While total sales rose 2.3 per cent to £926.6 million last year, underlying store growth declined 2.6 per cent.

Stores in the South-East were underperforming in 1991, while stores in the North continued to grow. Sales within the jewellery, gifts and sports ranges were below those of 1990, but electrical appliances, audio, television, furniture and photography all gained market share.

Argos is to increase its rate

of capital expenditure in

1992 to £40 million, and will

continue to review "any new

business opportunities that

research substantiates as being both profitable and viable".

Mr Smith said the group's

original register of 140,000

shareholders had slimmed

through the process of individual selling and institutions buying to 70,000 shareholders.

Argos shares closed 4p lower at 253p.

Tempus, page 22

## UK disposal credit lifts Woodchester

By OUR CITY STAFF

**WOODCHESTER** Investments, the Irish leasing and banking group that is 47 per cent owned by Crédit Lyonnais, lifted its pre-tax profit by 34 per cent to £159.6 million (£37 million) during the year to end-December.

The figures include a first-time contribution from Merchant Credit Company of Ireland, acquired in late 1990, and also reflects the return on the equity subscribed by Crédit Lyonnais in January last year. Earnings per share rose by 1 per cent to 17.1p and the dividend was increased by 20 per cent to

## Burmah sale brings in £44m

By MARTIN BARROW

**BURMATH** Castrol, the lubricants and chemicals group, has raised £44 million with the sale of the ceramics, abrasives and diamond products business acquired as part of the £259 million takeover of Foseco in late 1990. The buyer is Apax Partners, a venture capital group, which is paying £41.5 million in cash and assuming £2.5 million in long-term liabilities.

The businesses manufacture and market ceramic materials, grinding wheels and diamond tooling for the aerospace, engineering and automotive industries. Their pre-tax profits fell to £6.7 million in 1991 (£9.5 million). Net assets were £49 million, excluding a £13 million property revaluation completed after the takeover.

Burmah has raised £52 million from the sale of non-core businesses inherited with Foseco. Burmah will unveil its 1991 results on Thursday.

## Liquidator called in at Trinity and Bryanston

By JON ASHWORTH

**PROVISIONAL** liquidators have been appointed at Trinity Insurance and Bryanston Insurance, barely two months after a company doctor was brought in.

Richard Boys-Stones and Colin Bird of Price Waterhouse, provisional liquidators, see schemes of arrangement.

ment, where creditors agree to be paid part of their claim, as preferable to liquidation. John Winter, the company doctor made chief executive of the two firms on January 7, will help with the schemes.

The trade and industry department is believed to be studying transactions made by the two companies since 1990 involving up to £20 million. The DTI neither confirmed nor denies this.

Trinity and Bryanston have presented High Court petitions for a compulsory winding up to obtain protection from creditors with agreed claims. But it is thought the court will be asked to adjourn the hearing of the petitions to develop and circulate the schemes to creditors as soon as possible.

The companies are owned by GFA International, a holding company controlled by Gran Fowler, an Australian businessman. Bryanston is a reinsurer dealing largely with North America and has gross insurance reserves of \$250 million. Trinity is a direct insurer with gross reserves of £100 million dealing mainly in Europe.

### COMPANY BRIEFS

**LINREAD** (Fin) Pre-tax: £2.2m Loss LPS: 13.84p (EPS: 11.1p) Div: 1.5p, mkg 3.5p

**GABICCI** (Int) Pre-tax: £258,000 EPS: 3.1p (3.8p) Div: 1.4p (1.4p)

**LINCAT GROUP** (Int) Pre-tax: £106,000 EPS: 1p (3.7p) Div: 1.8p (1.8p)

**ERA GROUP** (Fin) Pre-tax: £22.17m (22.55m) EPS: 2.18p (2.44p) Div: Nil (nil)

**SHARPE & FISHER** (Fin) Pre-tax: £283,000 EPS: 5.4p (6.3p) Div: 2.5p, mkg 4p (4p)

**COMMUNITY HOSPITALS** Pre-tax: £22.68m (21.99m) EPS: 6.2p (5.5p) Div: 2.4p (2.2p)

**PROCESS SYSTEMS** (Fin) Pre-tax: £403,497 EPS: 0.78c (0.78c) Div: None

**MERIVALE MOORE** (Int) Pre-tax: £1.43m Loss LPS: 7.0p (EPS: 6.7p) Div: 1.0p (2.75p)

Last time's profit was £2.08m. Last time's total dividend was 5.7p. There was an exceptional debit of £2.86m.

Last time's profit was £676,000.

Turnover fell to £11m (£12.5m). Company said export sales continued to expand.

Last time's profit was £376,000.

Turnover fell to £5.16m (£5.82m). Company said it is beginning to see signs of improvement.

Turnover fell to £71.1m (£73.4m). All group businesses profitable. Customer traffic through shops greater than last year.

Last time's profit was £1.61m.

Turnover down to £43.8m (£47m). There was an extraordinary debit of £55,000. Gearing at 42% (52%).

Interim results. Turnover rose to £19.3m (£16.1m). Board's best year is for full year pre-tax profit of £7m and turnover of £242m.

Last time's profit was £430,151.

Revenues climbed to £12.9m (£12.4m). There was a £161,899 extraordinary credit.

Last time's profit was £1.84m.

Turnover fell to £12.2m (£43.2m). There was an extraordinary debit of £169,000.

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Getting the measure of margins: Peter Wiegand of Claremont Garments says demerger was timely

## New-look Claremont keeps up profit pace

CLAREMONT Garments, the dedicated Marks and Spencer supplier demerged from Alexon Group last year, returned almost unchanged pre-tax profits of £6.21 million for 1991, compared with a pro-forma £6.42 million in 1990.

The results, covering a 48-week period, show annualised earnings of 15.6p a share, against 15.7p. There is a 3.5p maiden final divi-

dend to add to a special 3p demerger dividend making a total of 6.5p. The shares rose 2p to 225p, compared with an opening 170p following the July demerger.

Turnover rose from £46.25 million to £47.82 million, but operating profits fell from £7.43 million to £6.74 million.

Peter Wiegand, chairman, said margin pressure had been partly offset by improved productivity in Scot-

land, a reduction in overheads and costs and the benefit of continued investment.

The company reported

strong growth in sales to the

end of February, with further

orders for spring and summer.

Early results for autumn were "encouraging".

A prime motive for the

demerger was to maximise shareholder value. On the final day of trading as a com-

pany, it will be able to match last year's dividend in 1992.

Mr Teare said there was as yet no sign of an upturn in the group's main markets.

During 1991 ECC cut its workforce by about 2,000 and capital expenditure from about £100 million a year to £10 million. But Mr Teare said the capital expenditure cuts had been necessary only for a "short and aggressive period" and were being relaxed.

Spending plans of £38 million have been announced for this year.

A £20 million extraordinary debit was largely due to the cost of selling the loss-making International Drilling Fluids, eventually sold last June to New London, the oil services group, for an initial \$5 million.

Although the company pre-

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Although the company pre-

## ECC changes name back to English China Clays

By MATTHEW BOND

ECC Group is reverting to its old name of English China Clays in a move that Andrew Teare, chief executive, said reflected the sale of peripheral businesses and the purchase of Georgia Kaolin.

Mr Teare said: "We are now an industrial minerals company, with significant interests in construction materials." He was speaking after ECC unveiled pre-tax profits of £115 million for 1991, 57 per cent up on unaudited figures for 1990 and in line with the forecast made last month, when the company announced plans for a £20 million rights issue.

The dividend was also in line with the forecast, with a final of 13.4p (13p) making a total payment of 20p (19.6p). Dividend cover rose significantly, as earnings per share jumped from 15.5p to 32.6p.

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Teare: spending again

Tempus, page 22

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TEMPS

# Sharper focus builds a stronger ECC

AT £115 million pre-tax, ECC Group's 1991 results were in line with the forecast made at the time of the company's £209 million rights issue a month ago.

The consequently unsurprising figures confirm that Andrew Teare, chief executive, is making sound progress in refocusing the group on two businesses — industrial minerals and building materials.

Operating profits from minerals rose from £73 million to £97.7 million, mainly reflecting a full and improved contribution from Georgia Kaolin, the American group bought for £10 million in 1990. But evidence from the paper industry, which is in recession, suggests that 1992 will be flat. Profits in building materials fell from £33.7 million to £24.1 million.

The balance of group operating profits of £135 million, up 12 per cent on last year, came from housebuilding, a business Mr Teare has decided is not for ECC. The division contributed £14.3 million, however, with £8.4 million coming from the sale of 417 houses and the balance from land sales. The company hopes to raise about £160 million by selling its land bank of 6,000 plots, over the next three years.

A virtual freeze on capital expenditure has nearly halved net borrowing to £132.5 million, although this will rise about £20 million because of the \$50 million of auction market preferred stock that will remain after the rights issue proceeds are used to cancel £350 million of AMPS. Gearing will be less than 20 per cent.

With the interest charge falling and more rationalisation, pre-tax profits of about £135 million look possible, putting the shares on a price earnings multiple of about 14. Fairly valued.

## Argos

ARGOS shareholders might be disappointed, though not surprised, that five years of rising profits came to an end in 1991, when the pre-tax figure slipped from £73.1 million to £62.1 million.

One catalogue item that should please, however, is the rise from £48 million to £56 million in the average cash balance generated from trading activities and on which, despite lower rates, net interest of £6.65 million (£6.87 million) was earned.

This helped the year's total dividend to rise from 6p to 6.4p, even though net earnings slipped by 13 per cent to 13.9p a share.

Weaker trading profits at



Waiting game: Mike Smith of Argos yesterday

£55.4 million (£68.2 million) reflect generally tougher conditions and were after £4 million of exceptional charges, most of which are non-recurring. But if Argos' chief executive, is waiting for election clouds to clear and for

the economy to shine again, it has used 1991 to attack costs, ready for the upturn.

The first of four pilot home furnishers stores opens its doors this week. Meanwhile, thoughts on whether and where to expand in Europe are taking shape. Upgrading

of outlets continues, capital expenditure will rise by £10 million to £40 million in 1992 and the headcount continues to be trimmed.

Over the past year, Argos shares have lagged the market, and an original share register boasting 140,000 shareholders is down to 70,000. Pre-tax profits will take time to challenge peak 1990 levels of £75.1 million, but should recover to £70 million this year. At 25p, the shares are on 16.2 times prospective earnings. They are for window shopping, at least until the consumer recovery is born.

## Spring Ram

HERE follow trading statements from a company dealing with the harsh realities of recession, heavily dependent on demand for home improvement products: "A sound balance sheet, substantial liquid funds and strong positive cash flow enable (such) opportunities to be fully exploited; the new financial year has started well, future prospects are most encouraging."

Spring Ram has done it again. Sales of its bathrooms, kitchens and home improvement products rise unabated, as if the property market had never collapsed.

Last year profits rose 25

per cent to a pre-tax £37.6 million and earnings climbed 31 per cent to 7.1p a share. The company was unscathed throughout 1991 and year-end net cash rose from £31.3 million to £45.3 million.

Without recourse to shareholders, Spring Ram is in the second phase of a £102 million capital investment programme aimed at doubling manufacturing capacity by the end of 1993. Cash generation is expected to be positive with a good return on investment, even without a significant recovery in consumer demand.

Growth will not be inhibited by market share, which remains modest — even in Britain Spring Ram accounts for just 5 per cent of total sales. Europe beckons with exports still accounting for just 15 per cent of group sales. When demand does recover, Spring Ram should not be found wanting.

Spring Ram is not a well kept secret and its shares have raced from 96p to 156p in one year. On a conservative growth assumption of 20 per cent this year they trade on a prospective p/e of 18.5.

Investors may be reluctant to chase the shares much higher but any weakness should provide buying opportunities.

## WALL STREET

New York — American shares opened lower as they relinquished some of the gains made from Friday's "triple witching" futures and options expirations, analysts said. The Dow Jones industri-

al average was down 8.72 points at 3,267.67.

□ Tokyo — Shares ended

with modest gains, giving up

most of an early rally. The

Nikkei index was up 54.51

points, or 0.27 per cent, to

20,239.60. (Reuters)

# STOCK MARKET

## Trade figures leave shares looking limp

THE latest trade figures sent a shudder through the City and did little to reassure anxious traders and investors about the Conservative party's prospects of achieving a workable majority.

Brokers had been banking on some good news to bolster confidence in the pound and provide voters with just a glimmer of hope about the economy. But the trade deficit of £750 million was worse than most forecasters had been predicting.

Dealers said the equity market had been led lower by the future, where the FTSE 100 index March series had touched 2,420, wiping out any remaining premium. It later recovered to close at 2,441, allowing prices to fall to 13.9p a share.

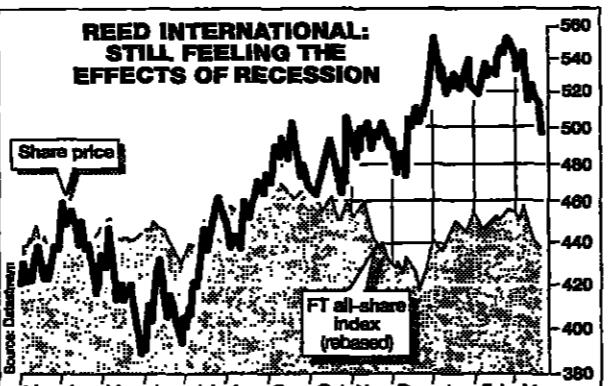
It was a disappointing performance, with prices again suffering further volatility in thin conditions with only 373 million shares traded. The

index eventually closed 15.6 down at 2,441, having been 28.7 lower shortly after the trade figures were published.

Government securities closed with gains of 1% at the longer end as investors continued switching out of other European bond markets.

The debt rescheduling at Olympia & York, the Canadian property group responsible for developing Canary Wharf in London's Docklands, left a bad taste in the mouth of other property developers already staggering under the burden of falling property values. There were losses for Allied London Properties, 3p to 6sp, Percy Bilson 5p to 42sp, British Land 14p to 18p, Capital & Counties 5p to 15p, Chesterfield Properties 5p to 31p, Hammerson A 8p to 40sp, Helical Bar 7p to 45sp, Land Securities 9p to 39sp, MEPC 4p to 31p, and Slough Estates 7p to 164p.

British Steel's recent purple



share appears to have come to an end, with the price of cost cutting at NP, while PowerGen is capable of strong profits growth.

Broker Smith New Court urged clients to sell. Smith says that the outlook for the

steel industry remains gloomy, with the cost of raw materials outstripping price

Nikko, the Japanese securities house, rates PowerGen and National Power as long-term buys. There is scope for cost cutting at NP, while PowerGen is capable of strong profits growth.

Broker Smith New Court rises. It expects the net dividend to be cut. A profits downgrade by James Capel

left Reed International, the publisher, 14p lower at 499p. Capel has cut its pre-tax profit estimate for the current year from £225 million to £217 million. Last year the group made £221.8 million.

There was selective support for the composite insurers, thanks to some words of encouragement from stockbroker County NatWest Wood-Mac. It has upgraded its recommendation for Commercial Union, 4p lower at 414p, and Sun Alliance 4p better at 261p, from a "sell" to a "hold". It says there is no point selling the shares now at these depressed levels. But it has added Royal Insurance, 4p better at 174p, to the buy list. It says the 42 per cent discount of the shares to net asset value is too much. County remains cautious of the sector overall. General Accident finished 4p down at 401p and Guardian Royal Exchange ended 3½p cheaper at 120p after going ex-divi-

dend. Argos, the catalogue retailer, fell 4p to 253p after reporting a drop in pre-tax profits from £75.1 million to £62.1 million.

Spring Ram, the bathroom and kitchen equipment group, continues to please with impressive profits. The shares responded with a rise of 3p to 158p.

First-time dealings in privatised issue Fort Ports began encouragingly following an initial placing by BZW at 110p. The price ended the session at 122p, a premium of 12p.

TT Group, which is being tipped to bid for Renold after building up a 5 per cent stake, has now emerged with 7.5 per cent of ML Holdings, the aerospace and electronics components group. ML remains cautious of the sector overall. General Accident finished 4p down at 401p and Guardian Royal Exchange ended 3½p cheaper at 120p after going ex-divi-

MICHAEL CLARK

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Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 90.0 (day's range 89.8-90.0).

EUROPEAN SPOT RATES

Mid Rates for Mar 23 Range Close 1 month 3 month

Amsterdam 3,2200-3,2260 3,2210-3,2260 3-4 pr 1-4 pr

Brussels 58,82-59,02 58,82-59,93 9-1pr 20-5pr

Copenhagen 11,1001-11,1220 11,1040-11,1172 1-4pr 2-4pr

Frankfurt 2,8601-2,8659 2,8610-2,8659 4-pr 8-8 pr

Greece 57,25-57,35 57,25-57,35 8-8 pr 16-16 pr

Helsinki 5,00-5,10 5,00-5,10 10-10 pr 20-20 pr

Iceland 10,3700-10,3900 10,3700-10,3900 4-4 pr 10-10 pr

Lisbon 245,63-246,59 245,63-246,59 51-68 pr 153-185d

London 10,2000-10,2150 10,2000-10,2150 24-24 pr 48-48 pr

Madrid 216,8-215,46 215,05-215,46 24-24 pr 48-48 pr

Milan 2,0423-2,0509 2,0471-2,0491 48-62 pr 124-146 pr

Montreal 1,02-1,03 1,02-1,03 24-24 pr 48-48 pr

Paris 11,7000-11,7200 11,7000-11,7200 10-10 pr 20-20 pr

Rome 9,7000-9,7245 9,7100-9,7245 14-14 pr 34-34 pr

Stockholm 10,3746-10,3950 10,3746-10,3950 4-4 pr 14-14 pr

Tokyo 220,10-220,76 220,10-220,76 2-2 pr 10-10 pr

Zurich 2,5966-2,6059 2,6031-2,6059 1-1 pr 10-10 pr

Switzerland 2,5966-2,6059 2,6031-2,6059 1-1 pr 10-10 pr

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## Hot air over pay at British Gas

**P**opular singers, barely out of their teens, frequently earn more than the £435,000 now being paid to British Gas chairman Robert Evans. The fact attracts little comment and almost no outrage. What differentiates the two cases in the perceptions of the British people? When it is jealousy and envy we should trouble ourselves no longer with the voices of protest.

It would be a pity, too, if such emotions were allowed to set the agenda for a rational debate about levels of top executive remuneration. On most international comparisons, Mr Evans's pay is by no means excessive for an enterprise as large as British Gas. Research funded with trade union backing shows that well over 100 executives in Britain earn more than £500,000. Mr Evans may have more security than most. But it is difficult to conclude that his pay is too high. Objections to the size of his pay cheque seem misguided or malevolent. Much closer to the mark would be some questioning of the way Mr Evans's salary has grown substantially over the past few years. Increases which are not clearly linked to performance or additional responsibility can be attacked more legitimately as less than fair.

At British Gas and the other privatised utilities, there was a need to adjust top salaries to the reality of a competitive market for private sector executives if these companies were not to be stricken by a steady departure of their best talent to more congenial posts elsewhere. But at British Gas, the process, if not complete, has run much of its course.

The real failure of British Gas's board has to do not with absolute pay levels but with basic tests of leadership. When times are hard, pain should be shared as evenly as possible. Top men who exhort their juniors to greater endeavour for only modest extra reward are asking for trouble if they accept, without excellent reason, much more themselves.

## Trade taboos

**J**ohn Major was wise to get the main monthly batch of economic statistics out of the way early in the election campaign. Even the two figures that might have shown the upside of the recession have proved disappointing for the government. After Friday's standstill inflation rate, the modest recovery in the February balance of payments, from what seemed a rogue January deficit, suggests that was not such an exceptional figure after all. From the spring of last year, the deficit ran at less than £300 million in most months, but has already notched up £1.6 billion in the first two months of 1992. This relapse reflects the slowdown of overseas economies, especially Germany, rather than new trends at home. Exports were only 1.5 per cent higher in the past three months than in the previous three; imports, by comparison, were up 3 per cent.

Given that immediate cause, there is no reason to think the deterioration in trade should carry much immediate weight on the foreign exchanges, or have any implications for interest rates. The figures also look ripe for revision, not least on invisibles. Even so, it is significant that Britain can only come near to paying its way if the economy is running at a much lower rate than its main competitors.

Deficits on this scale may be easy to finance if there is broader confidence in economic policy, but jobs are equally at risk if the economy is run at half speed or if trade deficits pile up. Either relative wages are too high, or industry is uncompetitive in non-price terms or sterling was put into the exchange rate mechanism at too high a rate. Since the latter topic is taboo, any electoral debate is unlikely to be enlightening.

**Mick Newmarch aims to change radically the Prudential's approach to its business... William Kay looks at the options facing him**

**T**oday's annual results from Prudential Corporation, which operates Britain's biggest door-to-door insurance salesforce, could mark the end of the deck-clearing operation instituted by Mick Newmarch when he became chief executive nearly two years ago. In that time, he has pulled the Pru out of its painful involvement in estate agency and completed a drastic reorganisation of the 10,000-strong salesforce.

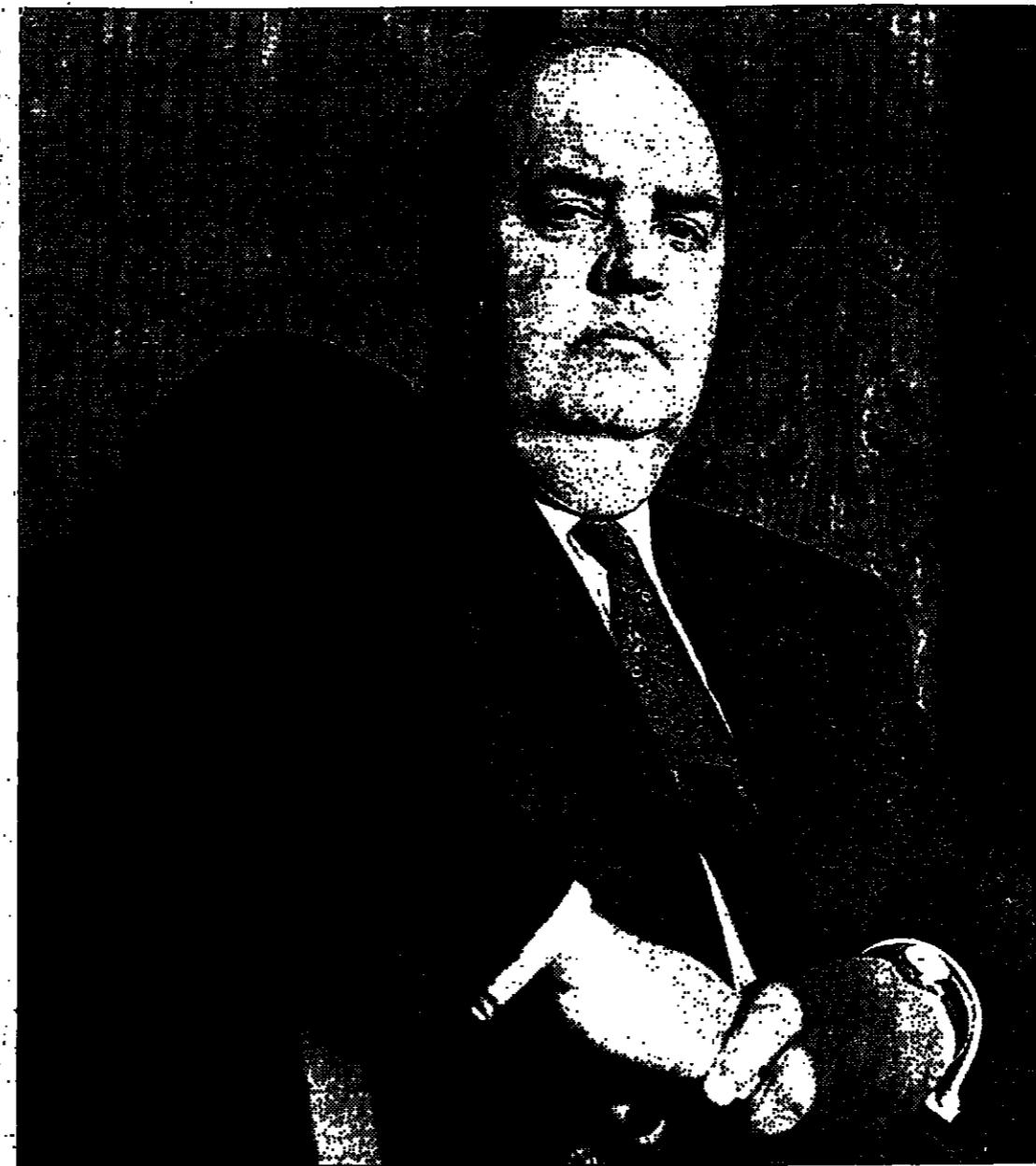
Life assurance in Britain is, however, a mature, even static, market, especially in the midst of a recession, when people are less inclined to commit themselves to avoidable spending. The group's general and reinsurance businesses have been assailed on all sides, from hailstones in Calgary to car thefts in Cardiff. The profits trend is still recovery, but that is due to a mixture of better management and the inevitable upturn in the investment and insurance cycles.

To a man of Mr Newmarch's mettle, that will not be enough. Aged 54, he joined the Pru in 1955 and probably has another six years to leave a lasting mark on the organisation. "I am proud of it," he says. "I admire its standards. But I'm going to be prouder of it." That is a significant statement from someone of Mr Newmarch's intense ambition to prove himself after a lifetime spent clawing his way up the corporate ladder.

The decision to make the bulky, quick-thinking, fast-talking Newmarch chief executive was in itself a departure. In the past, the top job has gone to insurers and actuaries, rather than an investment manager. He has already made dramatic inroads into the Pru's formerly sepulchral culture, which was reinforced by the echoing gloom of its Gothic 19th-century head office in Holborn, where seemingly endless corridors led round unpredictable corners into rooms more suited to the musings of philosophy dons than to mugs decisions by streetwise executives. The panelled boardroom even had a special cubby-hole for the secretary to listen and record minutes as said was without actually being able to witness the proceedings.

Symbolically, all that is gone. Only the shell remains, while the innards are being rebuilt to suit the modern era. Meanwhile, Mr Newmarch has made a start on an organisational refit to match that physical facelift. One of his earliest decisions was to kill the ill-starred foray into estate agency...

On taking office, he said: "The estate agency business has always been cyclical. We will again have a lively and dynamic housing market



Via Holborn: Mick Newmarch, chief executive, intends to take the Pru into new markets

in this country, but the current market will exert pressures on some of the agency players."

As it turned out, the pressures told on the Pru. It made trading losses of £82.6 million through the estate agency in 1989 and 1990, and spent another £41.3 million winding up. Mr Newmarch confessed: "In retrospect, we can now see that this business was inappropriately managed as market conditions became much worse than anything forecast. It also became clear to us that the opportunity for Prudential to cross-sell to an estate agency-focused customer base was much less significant than had been contemplated."

That was the key to the estate agency venture. It was an attempt to solve the biggest conundrum the Pru faces in this country: how to improve distribution of products and communication with the customer. While Newmarch was taking what price he could get for the estate agencies, he tried another tack — modernising the "Man from the Pru" salesforce.

The fallout seemed cataclysmic, especially for many of those who thought they were opting for the

quiet life when they joined the Pru. In October 1990, Mr Newmarch launched Scenario III, an ambitious plan to divide its field staff into two tiers. A new breed of 3,000 financial consultants was to be created. They were brought back into classrooms to learn how to concentrate on providing advice and clinching sales. The rest, called customer service representatives, were confined to the worthy but lesser tasks of collecting premiums and handling customer complaints.

**T**he changes caused widespread tensions, which surfaced at last May's annual shareholders' meeting. One employee present, Valerie Ellison, a district officers' clerk in the Frome office, said: "I used to enjoy working for the company very much, but even I am finding the pressures pretty horrendous." Others said the increase in Mr Newmarch's salary, by 43 per cent to £544,000, had caused bitterness and resentment.

A spokesman admitted that one of the biggest internal reorganisations in the company's 140-year history, involving more than a third of its 25,000 staff, had "probably affected

morale". He commented: "The company is going through a great deal of change, and people do not welcome change because it brings uncertainty."

The feeling lingered. In June, the salesforce voted four-to-one for disruptive action, claiming the Pru had reneged on agreements over their pensions. The National Union of Insurance Workers, which claims 90 per cent membership among the salesforce, said management had abandoned a deal to improve pensions in return for an agreement to change working practices. A compromise was not reached until last autumn, by which time the group had forgone possibly £60 million in new annual premiums because of the disruption.

The thinking behind Scenario III is, however, hard to fault. Financial products are more complicated than when the man from the Pru started knocking on doors in the Twenties. Rivals use the "financial planning" approach, whereby the salesman extracts every drop of information about a client then sells a tailored portfolio of savings and insurance. That requires intensive training.

Mr Newmarch was acutely con-

scious that the Pru was missing this higher margin business. The company was also failing to collect its proportionate share of the lucrative orders to be had from wealthier customers, most of whom disdain a knock at the door in favour of a discreet chat with an independent financial adviser, or IFA.

Last summer, Mr Newmarch set about wooing the IFAs with the Prudence Bond, a unitised with-profits bond that helped the group's single-premium sales to rise by a healthy £500 million to £3 billion for 1991. He is also pushing corporate pensions harder, offering a compendium of discrete products and services rather than one simple "take it or leave it" option.

**N**one of this is designed to set the world alight. Life insurance is a mature market in Britain and is coming under increasing attack from banks, also eager to widen their sources of revenue. Roger Harvey, insurance analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said: "As the old joke goes, if I were them I wouldn't start from here. They are financially more secure than most life companies, but then the others are weak."

One obvious expansion route is to go abroad. The Pru is already in Australia, and six years ago it made a significant American move by buying Jackson National Life, which in December paid a maiden dividend of \$100 million. True to his roots, Mr Newmarch has started to give Prudential Portfolio Managers a global base by establishing a Chicago office that took responsibility for Jackson's investments. He is also believed to be casting eyes on the Asia Pacific region which, unlike Britain, has high economic growth and a young population. He regards continental Europe as "a long-term opportunity", which may be a euphemism for a low priority. But it is hard to be rid of the suspicion that Mr Newmarch has something more spectacular up his capacious sleeve.

At one time, the Pru was touted as a possible bidder for Midland Bank, but that is now almost certainly out of court. However, a well-chosen building society's customer list would be a goldmine, while simultaneously giving the group the high street presence it craved through estate agencies. Mr Newmarch dismisses such speculation, but admits he has been trying to "develop a total strategy for the Pru", and regularly chews the fat with his team of eight strategy experts.

Laurel Powers-Freeling, the 34-year-old American from Morgan Stanley who became head of corporate strategy in January, said: "Mick is committed to a complete re-examination of how we do our business." Within a few weeks she began a review of global strategy, which should be ready in June. That will crystallise a fundamental debate over the future of the group.

Could it be too much for Mr Newmarch's sense of showmanship to be able to resist unveiling a grand new initiative from the reconstructed Holborn head office this time next year? Now that would be symbolism of a high order.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### All manor of attractions

WHATEVER the outcome of the general election, flamboyant tycoon Peter de Savary is understood to be planning a move to America. To that effect, de Savary, aged 47, has placed Littlecote House, his Elizabethan mansion-cum-tourist attraction near Swindon, Wiltshire, on the market, inviting offers in the region of £6 million. For an additional £3 million, de Savary will throw in 180 acres of farmland, with planning permission for an 18-hole golf course. The grade one listed manor has its own Cromwellian chapel, coach house and trout stream, and comprises nine reception rooms, an indoor swimming pool, five cottages, two flats and a fourth-century Roman chapel. De Savary bought the property — then with 80 acres — from Sir David Seton Wills, the tobacco heir, for £7 million in 1985. He invested considerable sums of money, dismantling Frontier City, a replica wild west town built on an adjoining pig farm, and erected an Elizabethan theme park instead. That closed two years ago and his next venture, a £30 million scheme to turn Littlecote into a hotel, leisure club and golf course was also unsuccessful.

**Trader's placing**  
WILD fluctuations in the price of banking shares today should not necessarily be cause for alarm. In the run-up to the "trading places" challenge on Friday, in which thousands of people will swap jobs for the day, Smith New Court is bringing in a social worker to help man in mar-



WE WERE GETTING ALL OUR MAIL ADDRESSED TO BRUSSELS

ECC CHANGES NAME

strategic objective in the restructuring of its team. As acknowledged as the brain behind some of the biggest global sponsorship deals linking branded products to racing car marques, Edwards is also about to publish a book on sport sponsorship.

**BURMAH Castrol is flushed with success after the £44 million disposal of business that once belonged to Faseco, but it is sheepish about the one left behind. It has yet to find a buyer for Celmac, Britain's largest toilet seat manufacturer.**

ket-making pitch. Chris Few, a market-maker on SNC's banks pitch, plans to spend the day helping people with learning difficulties. About 38,500 swapping events are due to take place, including antics by employees of the Royal Bank of Scotland who will don masks resembling Michael Fish, the BBC weatherman, for the day. The event aims to raise £15 million towards a breast cancer research centre in London.

**Lotus position**  
GUY Edwards, the former formula one driver, has been hired by the Lotus formula one team as marketing director for its sponsorship programme. Edwards, who was awarded the Queen's gallantry medal for dragging Niki Lauda, then world champion, from his blazing Ferrari at the 1976 German Grand Prix, has, for some years, handled sponsorship for Jaguar. His association with Jaguar will continue alongside the Lotus appointment. Peter Collen, Lotus managing director, said Edwards' appointment meant Lotus had met another

### Academics who are neither objective nor reliable

*From Mr Ian Brindle*

Sir, I had thought the benefit of academic opinion was that it was formulated through objective consideration of reliable evidence. The article "Watchdogs must be forced to bark" by three accountancy academics on your Accountancy Times page (March 19) spoils that belief.

I would not disagree with the authors that the accounting profession has much to do properly to meet the expectations of the public. However,

the authors fail to acknowledge the strenuous efforts now being made by such bodies as the Financial Reporting Council, the Accounting Standards Board and the Auditing Practices Board, all of which are making determined efforts to attack many of the problems. But worse than that is the article is based on a series of totally incorrect and unfounded assertions, the most extraordinary of which is the statement that "Auditors remain unaccount-

able and none are prosecuted for delivering audits that were as worthless as they are costly." Tell that to the lawyers and the underwriters!

I think I have found the first cuckoo of spring lurking amongst the City pages — or perhaps the article was meant to appear on the first of April?

Yours faithfully,

IAN BRINDLE,  
Senior Partner,

Price Waterhouse,  
32 London Bridge Street,  
SE1.

that it would be appropriate to review the operation of the regime after two years, in the autumn of 1993.

It is important to recognise the extent to which this regime represents a radical departure from the past. For the first time, the institutes have the power of direct inspection over audit work carried out by firms.

The institutes, the firms and the government will undoubtedly learn from the early experiences of the new regime, but in the meantime I urge commentators to resist the temptation to keep on pulling up the plant in order to examine the roots. The system needs to be given time to establish itself. Attempts to discredit it ab initio can only damage its chances of success.

Yours faithfully,

IAN R. MCNEIL,

President,

Institute of

Chartered Accountants

in England & Wales,

Chartered Accountants' Hall,

Moorgate Place, EC2,

London.







## Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your total gain or loss and check this against the daily dividend figure. If the total gain is greater than the outright or share of the daily price money outlasted, if you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always keep your card safe when dealing. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Date or Issue
1	Clairens Ga	Tourism	
2	Bridon	Industrial	
3	Freman Cp	Building/Rds	
4	PFG Hodges	Industrial	
5	Invergordon Dist	Beverages	
6	Sime Darby	Industrial	
7	Bardics	Bank/Ins	
8	Harmont	Drapery/St	
9	MTM	Chem./Phs	
10	Ascaso	Building/Rds	
11	ML Higgs	Industrial	
12	New London	Oil/Gas	
13	Bleachley Mrs	Motor/Air	
14	Eldridge P'A	Breweries	
15	Son & New	Beverages	
16	Castrol Com	Leisure	
17	Grenache Grp	Breweries	
18	Shaper & Fisher	Building/Rds	
19	Ashley Group	Foodst	
20	JLL Group	Foodst	
21	Amber Day	Drapery/St	
22	Jardine Mathia	Industrial	
23	Bennicott	Paper/Pvt	
24	Exp Co Lou	Oil/Gas	
25	Tiphook	Transport	
26	BAA	Transport	
27	BET Ord	Industrial	
28	ICI	Chem./Phs	
29	Br Mohair	Texiles	
30	TNT	Transport	
31	Brent Chorus	Chem./Phs	
32	MTC Grp	Industrial	
33	Winstone R	Chem./Phs	
34	Yorkdale	Texiles	
35	Arke	Electrical	
36	BOC	Industrial	
37	Guinness	Breweries	
38	Rover	Industrial	
39	CRT Grp	Texiles	
40	Br Airways	Transport	
41	Eve Group	Building/Rds	
42	BICC	Electrical	
43	Hawesford Pds	Foodst	
44	Burnfield	Electrical	
<b>© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total</b>			

Please take into account any minus signs

## Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily yields for the weekly dividend of £5,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Mrs Joyce Pretty, of Bournemouth, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

1991/92 High/Low Company	Price £	No Yld	% P/E
311 211 Abbey Rd	224	-	5.1 8.7
312 210 Alred Fash	165	-	6.0 12.1
313 119 Amex New Z	170	-	5.0 13.4
314 212 Amex New Z	220	+ 0.03	7.4 22.4
315 150 Balfour Beac	160	-	4.0 10.0
316 150 Balfour Beac	160	-	4.0 10.0
317 150 Balfour Beac	160	-	4.0 10.0
318 150 Balfour Beac	160	-	4.0 10.0
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## BREWERS

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170 All-Brewers	600	-	18.5 4.1

# Changes eat profit at Brent Chemicals

BY MARTIN BARROW

BRENT Chemicals International, which issued a profit warning in January, eight weeks after a £15.6 million rights issue, saw taxable profits fall 60 per cent last year.

Pre-tax profits fell to £8.4 million (£13 million) after an exceptional restructuring charge of £3.16 million. Earnings fell to 2.9p a share (13.4p), leaving an unchanged dividend of 7.34p, including an unchanged final of 5.8p. The shares, 160p a year ago, rose 4p to 122p.

Steve Cuthbert, the chief

executive, said that dividend cover was eroded by the impact of the exceptional charge, which under former accountancy guidelines would have been treated as an extraordinary charge.

"We expect to maintain this level of dividend and obviously hope to increase it as soon as conditions improve," he said.

Although sales rose to £100 million (£89.7 million), helped by acquisitions, trading profits fell to £7.96 million (£10.6 million). Earnings were further eroded by a decline in investment income

from £2.39 million to £441,000, although the company ended the year with net cash of £10.5 million (£10.8 million).

Mr Cuthbert said: "We have made considerable progress in the last three years to focus our businesses on markets with good long-term growth potential. We were disappointed by the poor demand experienced in the last two months of 1991, although this has been alleviated by a stronger performance in the first two months of this year."

Profits from Brent's industrial businesses fell to £5.12 million (£7.62 million), showing the impact of difficult trading conditions in metal finishing, aerospace and electronics.

The integration of the recently acquired Chemicals Way Corporation, of America, and Hebro Chemie GmbH, of Germany, will reduce exposure to depressed British markets. Packaging, including inks, coatings and pre-press services, earned 24 million, up from £3.4 million.

The final dividend is being maintained at 4.2p, giving shareholders an unchanged total of 6.2p for the year.

Earnings fell from 15p to 4.9p a share. The decline was exacerbated by higher interest costs of £404,000 (£207,000) and an

## P-E maintains payout

P-E International, the management and computer consultant, is maintaining its dividend despite suffering a 61.5 per cent fall in full-year profits (Philip Pangalos writes). Pre-tax profits fell to £1.62 million (£4.21 million) in the year to end-December.

The decline was exacerbated by higher interest costs of £404,000 (£207,000) and an

exceptional charge of £541,000, arising from redundancy costs. Turnover rose 6 per cent to £68.8 million. Gearing increased from 6 per cent to 22 per cent.

The final dividend is being maintained at 4.2p, giving shareholders an unchanged total of 6.2p for the year.

Earnings fell from 15p to 4.9p a share.



**Buoyed-up:** The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, the ferry group where Norman Corlett, the chairman (above), and his board are under threat of a renewed bid from Sea Containers, had a record year in 1991, raising pre-tax profits from £3.3 million to £4.1 million.

David Dixon, managing director, said Steam Packet reversed a ten-year downward trend by raising its share of passenger arrivals on scheduled services

from 47.5 to 50.5 per cent. "Prospects for 1992 are rosier than the depths of the recession might suggest," said Mr Dixon. "Our passenger business is continuing to grow beyond the highest levels achieved early last year and freight carryings are holding up well, with the Isle of Man appearing so far to have escaped the worst of the recession."

Steam Packet operated fewer ships and achieved higher load factors, and

the upgrading of the fleet continued with a £1 million refit of the King Orry ferry. Turnover rose from £22.4 million to £24.1 million and trading profits from £3.53 million to £4.33 million.

Earnings rose from 19.3p to 23.6p a share. A final 7p dividend makes 10p for the year. Against Sea Containers, which owns 41 per cent of Steam Packet, was freed to bid for the company in January after a three-month standstill.

## BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK

### Redundancy set to follow rise in overcapacity

THE European Commission's latest industrial survey reveals increasing overcapacity throughout the EC and growing numbers of companies considering laying off workers.

The figures, which are for January, show that the Community's industry was operating at only 80.5 per cent of capacity, compared with 81.4 per cent a year earlier. Nowhere was the situation gloomier than in Britain, where 48 per cent of respondents said their capacity was "more than sufficient" to meet any rise in demand.

The survey, compiled by the commission's Eurostat agency, also found a 25 per cent year-on-year increase in the number of companies planning lay-offs, although there is no country-by-country breakdown.

□ The French motor industry claims there has been an upturn in European car sales. Figures from 17 EC and European Free Trade Association countries revealed a sales jump of about 3 per cent in February compared with a year earlier. There were 1.12 million new registrations in February; combined with January, the figure is 2.35 million, a 2.2 per cent increase from the first two months of last year.

No recovery, however, is evident in Britain, where sales slipped 8.6 per cent in January and February, with 263,000 new registrations. The biggest increases were in Spain (up 29.7 per cent) and in Belgium and Luxembourg, up by a fifth. The Volkswagen group consolidated its position as Europe's biggest seller, with 390,000 registrations in the two months. Peugeot-Citroën fell to third place, behind Fiat.

□ EC environment ministers meet in Brussels today to consider controversial draft rules from the commission on movement of toxic waste.

Commission sources say the rules would allow export of waste from the Community only to other OECD countries capable of processing it under the terms of the Basel convention, which sets out minimum safety requirements.

Greenpeace and eastern European governments, however, say this is a sham: Greenpeace last week accused Brussels of "toxic col-

nialism". It produced photographs of a mercury reprocessing plant in South Africa run by Thor Chemicals, a British company that receives half of its waste mercury from the EC. Greenpeace has presented the cases of five Zulu workers it claims have severe mercury poisoning; if successful in winning damages for the five, the group says it will take action against Thor in British courts.

Greenpeace figures show that Germany is the world's largest exporter of toxic waste: its 520,000 tons a year compare with 150,000 tons exported by America. Greenpeace maintains that the draft rules will not quell the "not-in-my-back-yard" attitude that leads EC governments to turn a blind eye to illegal waste shipments. Last week, a ship carrying shredded and poisonous car parts from Germany was turned away by Egyptian port authorities after a tip-off from The Netherlands; the whereabouts of the ship and its cargo are no longer known.

The commission says the new rules will maintain the ban on exporting waste to African, Caribbean and Pacific states linked to the Community through the Lomé convention, and will tighten up movements within the EC.

The ministers will also examine plans by Carlo Ripa di Meana, the environment commissioner, to phase out chlorofluorocarbons, and a directive establishing uniform levels of sulphur in diesel. The commission wants a two-stage programme to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions and cut acid rain levels.

□ Glaxo, the British pharmaceuticals group, will probably learn this week whether the commission is to investigate its pricing, after a complaint from Denmark. Eric Larsen, the Danish health minister, alleges that the cost of two Glaxo drugs, Imigran and Serevent, "threaten the development of an EC health policy".

The commission is studying an independent report claiming that drug companies restrict sales of drugs to wholesalers to prevent undercutting by "parallel imports". The commission's decision on Glaxo could be a pointer to future policy.

TOM WALKER

## Hongkong Land advances

FROM LUU YU  
IN HONG KONG

HONGKONG Land, the colony's biggest landlord, has revealed an 11 per cent rise in 1991 profits and plans to shift its primary listing to London, in line with the rest of the Jardine Matheson group.

After-tax profits rose to US\$298.1 million, from \$267.7 million in 1990, and were further boosted by an extraordinary gain of \$115.9 million from the sale of commercial buildings outside the central business district.

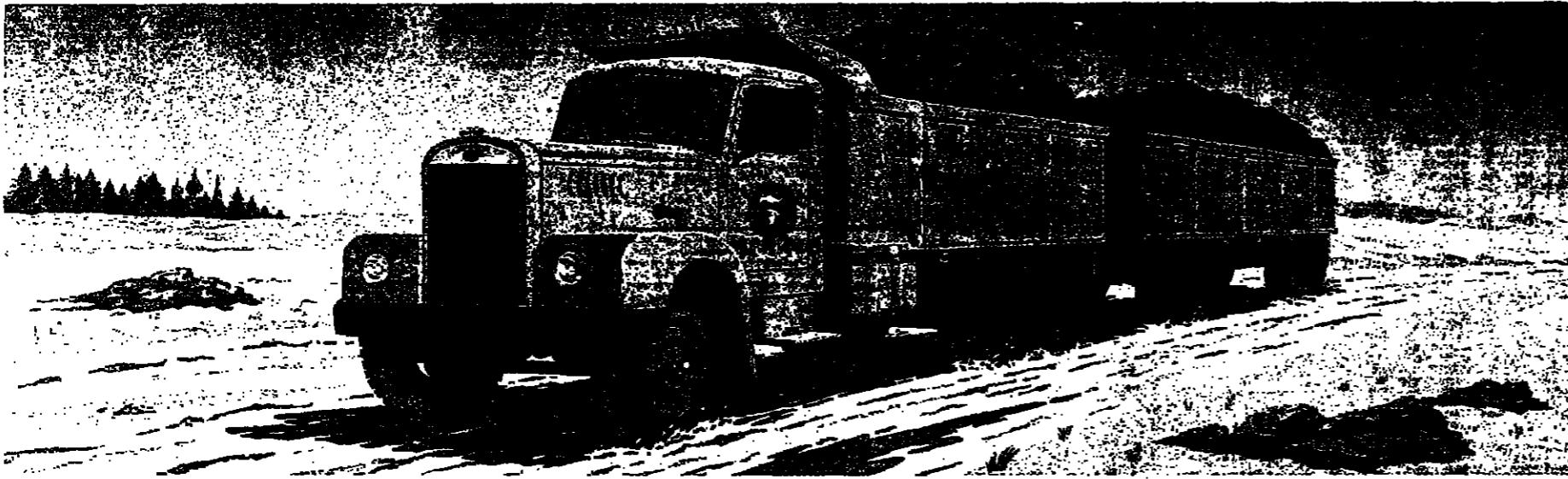
Earnings increased 10 per cent to 11.58 cents a share, and a final dividend of 6.15 cents per share will be paid, making a total of 9 cents up 9 per cent.

The figures, at the upper end of market expectations, showed the company's earnings growth was slowing because of soft rentals and an oversupply of office blocks.

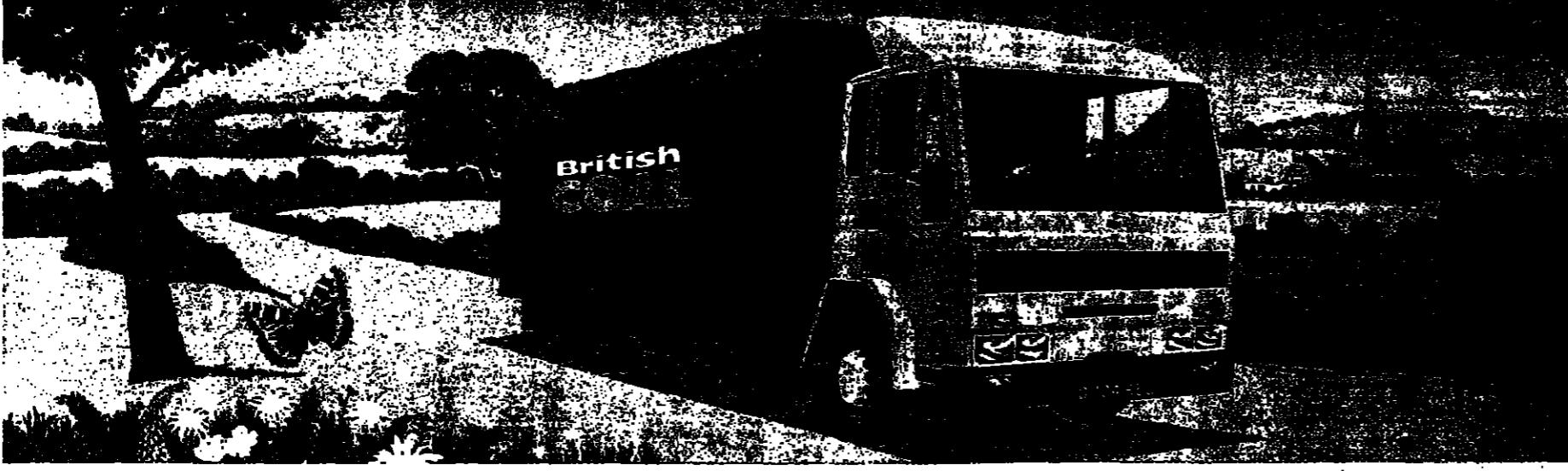
Simon Keswick, the chairman, said: "Capacity for earnings growth in 1992 is likely to be limited."

The company has a low gearing, with net borrowings at the year end of about \$350 million, or 8 per cent of shareholders' funds.

# PIECE OF COAL.



# PEACE OF MIND.



You can get your coal from just about anywhere in the world these days.

Unfortunately, that's about all you will get.

You're unlikely to get any sales back-up. You won't get much quality control. More importantly, you probably won't get any help if something goes wrong.

Perhaps that's why so many major British companies look no further than British Coal to supply their energy needs.

Because whatever your individual requirements, you

know you can rely on our network of specialist engineers up and down the country to make sure you get the right fuel at the right time as well as ensuring that your plant is running at optimum efficiency.

They can help plan your industrial or commercial boiler plant. They can advise you on selection of equipment. They can give you guidance on energy management.

They can train your plant operators and supervisors.

In fact, the only thing they probably can't do is teach you Russian.

For a piece of advice, you can call Mark Hopes on 071-235 2020. Or for peace

of mind, write to him direct at British Coal, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7AE.



MAJOR CHANGES		
RISES:		
HSBC	310p (+10p)	+11%
Glen	752p (+18p)	+25%
Liberty Life	655p (+12p)	+19%
News Corp	800p (+15p)	+2%
Unilever	924p (+8p)	+1%
FALLS:		
Berkeley Group	250p (-11p)	-32%
Tronox Chem	127p (-9p)	-41%
Vestas	555p (-22p)	-4%
SmithKline	825p (-22p)	-2%
J Wilkes	132p (-15p)	-11%
Closing Prices...Page 27		

RECENT ISSUES		
Ambient Smaller Units (500)	463	+1%
Avebeleche Int (RFD)	100	+11%
Bodog Int (RFD)	375	+27%
Capital Industries (P)	57	+1%
Fleming Inv & Cap Tr Inc (70)	67	+1%
Int'l Zinc Div (P)	32	+1%
Port Ports (1116)	122	+1%
Headline Group (RFD)	70	+1%
Int'l Amex Inc (S&P)	51	+1%
Int'l Zinc Div (P)	57	+1%
Lloyd's Smaller Cos Div (P)	37	+1%
Lloyd's Smaller Cos Div (P)	62	+1%
Matherne Warman	77	+1%
Kier & Men Tsl Inc (2)	103	+1%
Int'l Zinc Div (P)	123	+1%
Ross Int (115)	27	+1%
Templton Encyc Mar (100)	155	+1%
Under-Walker (RFD 1/1/92)	155	+1%
Wardell (P)	250p (-10p)	-4%
Reinke & Colman	555p (-18p)	-3%
Sibast	605p (-10p)	-2%
Glaxo (P)	115p (-10p)	-9%
Closing Prices...Page 27		

RIGHTS ISSUES

Addison Commodity N/P (12)

Brekok 100p N/P (12)

British Vts N/P (12)

Calined Investments 10p N/P (27)

Wardell (P) N/P (8)

British Indus Inv N/P (8)

Trinity Inv 10p N/P (21.9)

THE ONLY FUEL WITH A SOLID FUTURE

Frances Gibb looks at women in the judiciary and below, a report on women solicitors

## Let more women judge

A woman was recently promoted to the mostly male ranks of High Court judges. The appointment of Ann Ebsworth, previously a circuit judge and crown court recorder, makes four women judges out of a total of 111 in the whole of the High Court and Court of Appeal.

The shortage of women in the senior judiciary is worse than a decade ago when three of 3 High Court judges were women, compared with three of 44 now. No woman has ever been a law lord. There is one woman, Lord Justice Butterill, in the Court of Appeal, three in the High Court and 21 out of 446 circuit judges.

At the circuit bench has for 15 years been open to the greater pool of women solicitors, although the higher judicial ranks, now to be opened up under government reforms, have been restricted to the Bar.

At the time, it is said, more women will filter through to the higher levels. Though women still make up only about a fifth of the Bar's 6,900 members, they form almost half of the new entrants. However, women still do not apply for the lower judicial posts. The Lord Chancellor's department, which has tried unsuccessfully to boost the numbers of women on the circuit bench, points to the poor rate of applications from

women for assistant recorderships, the lowest rung on the judicial ladder.

Last week, the Bar announced new research to remedy sex discrimination. Questionnaires will go to barristers to find out whether women are disadvantaged. The survey will cover obtaining pupillages or tenancies, treatment in chambers, whether chambers provide for maternity leave and whether women are forced into special categories of work such as crime and family law. Recommendations will follow. The initiative is being taken by a new permanent committee of the Bar Council, specially created to tackle sex discrimination.

The plight of women came to a head at the Bar with a report last year by Helena Kennedy, QC, who has three young children, that listed obstacles in the path of women barristers, from a denial of weighty work on which to build their practices to a reluctance by chamber to consider more flexible arrangements for working mothers.

As Anthony Scrivenor, QC, put it when he was Bar chairman last year, "Women must have the same opportunity as men to succeed at the Bar on merit. They can expect no favours and need none. But they have the right to be treated on an equal footing with the men not disadvantaged because they have children."



Ann Ebsworth, fourth woman judge of 111 in the High Court and Court of Appeal



Leading law women: Barbara Mills, left, soon to be Director of Public Prosecutions; Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, of the Court of Appeal, and Helena Kennedy, a leading QC

## Why women's legal talents are going to waste

When law students take their solicitors' finals this summer, half the successful candidates will be women. Ten years after being admitted to the roll, four out of ten will have left the profession, compared with one in ten men. Male partners will outnumber their female counterparts by two to one. Today, 87 per cent of partners in solicitors' firms are men.

These figures, from the Law Society's annual statistical report, highlight a huge waste in human resources, coupled with reluctance to allow, or help, women to the top.

The problem was first spotted in a 1988 Law Society report, "Equal in the Law", which noted that although more women were entering the profession, a significant and alarming number are temporarily retiring from it after a few years, mainly to have children. There are no figures on the numbers of women returning to practice.

The report urged the society to sponsor refresher and returning courses for women. But the recommendation remains unimplemented, although the Association of Women Solicitors (AWS) runs an annual residential course for women returners. The College of Law has also introduced a distance-learning course for returners, based on the Law Society's annual statistical report, "Equal in the Law".

For years on, what are law firms doing? Last year, Quarry Doggall, recruitment consultants, published a report

which found that firms are starting to introduce piece-meal policies for women with family commitments, but that they did no more than "tweak" the problem.

City firms have introduced enhanced maternity benefits. For the statutory period of maternity leave, 40 weeks, Freshfields pays its female employees full pay for 18 weeks and half pay for the balance of 22 weeks.

Others, such as Denton Hall, prefer to offer a loyalty bonus equivalent to a percentage of leaving salary.

In big City firms the "mummy track" has evolved. None of the firms has part-time fees.

### A regional firm is the first to organise a day nursery

earning partners but Freshfields appointed its first part-time, non-fee-earning partner last year to head its professional support department. Freshfields and Clifford Chance stipulate that a part-time assistant solicitor, a post that includes working fixed hours, is no longer eligible for partnership. People may rejoin the partnership track when they return to full-time work, but there are no examples of this happening.

Linklaters does not bar partners from partnership, but has not yet created a partner working flexible hours. These firms have recently expanded their professional support de-

partments, where qualified lawyers provide research back-up to fee earners. Women who request a more flexible working package are encouraged to move across to this work; invariably they then leave the partnership track.

In smaller firms, there are more women partners working flexible hours. Bindmans, the legal aid practice, was one of the first to have women partners in a job-share.

Masons, a firm specialising in construction law, has flexible arrangements at partnership and assistant solicitor level. One part-time assistant solicitor has been made a (salaried) partner. Masons has also set up MAMA, Mothers at Masons Association, a support group for all staff with family commitments.

Bavan Ashford, one of the biggest regional firms, was the first law firm to set up a day nursery.

Margaret Bennett, the chairwoman of the Equity Partners' Group, a sub-committee of the AWS, wants to find out what policies the major law firms are adopting on maternity/paternity leave, re-training schemes and flexible working hours. Her committee plans to raise £10,000 in sponsorship from a leading law firm to draw up a systematic questionnaire.

As for women's future position, she argues that considering that women have entered the profession in large numbers only in the past decade, they have made remarkable progress. Law firms may, she acknowledges, need a little help to see the light.

DEBORAH WOLFSON

## Fare go for prisoners

AMID the pre-election fever, nobody seems to have noticed that a Labour victory would mean an end to government plans for commercial contractors to transport prisoners from detention to court. The government has announced that in a regional pilot project, 12 firms have been asked to tender for the privilege of driving all but the top-security prisoners to court from the start of next year.

Unfortunately, the government, for "commercial confidentiality", will not name the firms. Perhaps some mini-cab drivers are in for a windfall.

### Church aid

THE Congregational & General, a leading insurer of religious properties, is offering churches and other commercial policyholders a 24-hour helpline to protect against

legal and practical problems, including vandalism.

Ran by Europ Assistance, the helpline will be free to new and existing policyholders. In an emergency, the policy holder phones the helpline if, for instance, there is a broken door or leaky roof. Europ Assistance will contact one of a network of independent contractors "on its computerised touch-screen maps" and the repairer will visit the site at once.

**Aid tactic**

THE Scottish Bar is as worried about legal aid as its English counterparts. Alan Johnston, QC, the Dean of Faculty, has reluctantly accepted the government's proposed 5 per cent increase this year — 2 per cent more than the legal aid increase for lawyers south of the border. The election has

derailed Mr Johnston's campaign for a radical re-think on legal aid levels, but he has not lost sight of the need for rates to be reviewed and for a "major alteration" of the system's structure. He also advocates the introduction of a standard fee for certain cases. He believes the Treasury will push for an identical system of legal aid north and south of the border and will not give more money, hence his focus on savings.

"I think," he says, "that this has more chance of bearing fruit than an approach that simply seeks to increase rates."

SCRIVENOR

• Lord Mishcon, the distinguished solicitor, is not, as stated in *Law Times* last week, a past chairman of the Bar.

JULY 1992

## LAW TIMES

### A democracy should not ban information

THE Irish Supreme Court last month lifted an injunction that had prevented a teenage rape victim from travelling to England for an abortion. The court explained that it had made the decision because of the risk that the girl might commit suicide.

Today in Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights is to hear argument in another Irish abortion case. The issue is whether it is a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights for Irish law to prohibit organisations that counsel pregnant women from providing information about the identity and location of abortion clinics outside the Irish Republic.

The decision of the European Court will have an important effect on the scope of freedom of expression throughout Europe.

If a pregnant woman in the republic wished to consider an abortion, arrangements were made by the counselling services to refer her to appropriate medical clinics in Britain. In March 1988, the Irish Supreme Court held that these activities were in breach of the constitution.

Article 10 of the European Convention requires that any interference with freedom of information must be "prescribed by law" and "necessary in a democratic society". In March 1991, the European Commission of Human Rights, the lower judicial body, concluded, by eight votes to five, that the injunction was not "prescribed by law" as the content of Irish law was unclear before the supreme court's judgment.

The European Court is unlikely to follow this conclusion. The commission's reasoning was unconvincing on the foreseeability test, and the decision was unhelpful in failing to give guidance on the legality of a ban on the provision of such information in the future, now that the content of Irish law is known.

In a line of cases, the European Court has affirmed the fundamental importance of freedom of expression. As the court most recently explained in the judgment on *The Sunday Times and Spycatcher* last November, "freedom of expression constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic

society". Exceptions to the right "must be narrowly interpreted and the necessity for any restrictions must be convincingly established".

The court is likely to follow the approach adopted in the separate, and powerfully reasoned, opinion of Sir Basil Hall, the commission's UK member. He explained why the Irish ban was not "necessary in a democratic society".

The applicant organisations were not advocating abortion. They were providing objective information about reliable and lawful services in the UK. Such information would in any event be available to well informed members of Irish society, through books and magazines, so the ban was likely to affect only poorer women.

Sir Basil noted that the evidence before the commission indicated that the injunction had not reduced the numbers of Irish women having abortions in Britain, but had resulted in those women travelling at a later stage in their pregnancy and fewer women were having the required medical checks after returning to the republic. So the judgment of the Irish Supreme Court did not advance any interests of the foetus, but was damaging to the health and welfare of Irish women.

There is no justification for trying to deny citizens access to information that may be vital to the protection of their own health. The right to free movement within Europe is impeded when a state tries to keep secret details of lawful activities in other member states of the Council of Europe. Article 10 states that it applies "regardless of frontiers".

In 1975, the US Supreme Court held that it was a breach of the First Amendment to the US Constitution for Virginia to punish people for providing truthful information within its borders about abortion services available in New York. The European Court should come to the same conclusion about the similar efforts of the Irish republic.

• The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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## Law Report March 24 1992 Court of Appeal

**Asset-freezing injunction rarely appropriate against banks****Poly Peck International plc v Nadir and Others**

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Scott  
(Judgment March 19). Given the nature of a bank's ordinary course of business, in particular in reducing assets by repaying its depositors, and the need for public confidence for its continued existence, circumstances would have to be unusual for a *Mareva* asset-freezing injunction to be made against it.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the fourth defendant, Central Bank of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, from Mr Justice Millert who had granted a *Mareva* injunction in respect of the central bank's assets within the jurisdiction limited to a specified amount on the application of the plaintiff, Poly Peck International plc, in support of its claims against, *inter alios*, the central bank, such claims being brought at the direction of its joint administrators.

In discharging the *Mareva* injunction the court directed that the bank should place a sum representing the plaintiff's tracing claim in a separate account and should be restrained from dealing with that fund otherwise than in the normal course of business and unless and to the extent that there were no other funds in England available to be used.

The bank was also required to inform the plaintiff's solicitors in advance of any use proposed to be made of that sum and at the same

time to give details of all foreign currency reserves for the time being held within the jurisdiction.

Mr Philip Heslop, QC and Mr Richard Miller for the bank; Mr Robin Potts, QC, Mr Leslie Kosmin and Miss Sandra Bristol for Poly Peck.

**LORD JUSTICE SCOTT** said that the first defendant, Mr Asil Nadir, had acquired the controlling interest in Poly Peck in about 1980 and was at all material times since then its chief executive. It was claimed that he controlled and directed the movement of funds of Poly Peck and its subsidiaries.

The fifth defendant, Kibris Endüstri Bankası Ltd (IBK), was incorporated in Northern Cyprus and was controlled by Mr Nadir.

The Central Bank acted as central bank for Northern Cyprus with the supervisory and regulatory role and powers expected for a central bank of a sovereign state although one not recognised by the UK.

Under local law every bank within the territory had to be authorised to carry on business by the central bank and to ensure its liquidity had to hold at least 20 per cent of its foreign currency reserves with the central bank. IBK had maintained a bank account with the central bank in Northern Cyprus at all material times.

Poly Peck had claimed against Mr Nadir and against IBK in respect of misappropriation of the funds of Poly Peck amounting in total to £378 million and £142

million respectively. The basis of the claim against IBK was that between 1987 and 1990 funds of Poly Peck, totalling £142 million were transferred to the account of IBK at Midland Bank International in London from whence they were transferred or paid off or applied otherwise than for the proper purposes of Poly Peck.

The claim against the bank related to £44,967 million of the £142 million.

Over the period IBK transferred that sum from its account at Midland Bank International to the central bank's account at the Midland in exchange for a corresponding sum in Turkish lira, or in nine instances, in sterling for the purpose of foreign exchange transactions. It was crediting IBK with Turkish lira in Northern Cyprus in exchange for sterling in London.

Receipt of trust money by a *bona fide* purchaser for value without notice of the breach of trust barred any equitable tracing remedy. Mr Potts accepted that was so.

It followed that actual or constructive knowledge on the part of the central bank of the true character of the funds received from IBK and of the impropriety of the transfers was as much a requirement of the tracing claims as of the constructive trust claim.

There was, however, an important difference. Equitable tracing led to a claim of a proprietary character. A fund was identified that in equity was regarded as a fund belonging to the claimant.

The constructive trust claim in the present action was not a claim to any fund *in specie*. It was a claim to monetary compensation.

The only relevant interlocutory protection of a *moresca* claim was a *Mareva* injunction.

But if identifiable assets were claimed, the interlocutory relief sought would not be a *Mareva*

constructive trust case. At the beginning of March a supplementary tracing case had been put forward that if equitable tracing rules were applied to the £44 million a much lesser sum still stood to the credit of the central bank.

It was common ground that the central bank did not receive any part of the £44 million as volunteer. It received the money, apart from the sterling transfers, for the purpose of foreign exchange transactions. It was crediting IBK with Turkish lira in Northern Cyprus in exchange for sterling in London.

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but relief for the purpose of preserving *inter alia* the assets in question until their true ownership could be determined and quite different considerations would arise from those applying to *Mareva* injunctions.

His Lordship reviewed the allegations made in the constructive trust claim of actual knowledge or alternatively of constructive knowledge and considered the degree of knowledge on the part of the central bank which Poly Peck had to establish.

For present purposes on the facts before the court the question was whether a fair arguable case had been shown that the central bank must have realised that the funds were Poly Peck's funds and must have been suspicious that the funds were being misappropriated.

His Lordship concluded that overall, without the benefit of hindsight, the knowledge of the central bank that Poly Peck group were via IBK exchanging substantial sums of sterling in London for Turkish lira in Northern Cyprus was not calculated to give the central bank cause to suspect improprieties and did not put them on enquiry as to whether or not there were improprieties.

The case as shown by the evidence as it stood now was speculative and depended for its success on something emerging that cast suspicion on the bank and its *bona fides*.

With regard to the tracing claim, Poly Peck had to prove knowledge on the part of the central bank actual or constructive as the case might be. The degree of knowledge was that required on the constructive trust claim. It followed that his Lord-

ship's conclusions on that claim applied also to the tracing claim.

A *Mareva* injunction ought not to interfere with the ordinary course of business of the defendant, nor was it intended to give the plaintiff security in advance of judgment. It was merely intended to prevent the defendant from defeating the plaintiff's chances of recovery by dissipating or secreting away assets.

That principle made the grant of a *Mareva* injunction against a bank carrying on normal business very difficult. A *Mareva* injunction ought never to prevent a defendant from paying his creditors their due debts. A bank had to repay its deposits in accordance with the terms on which the deposits were held.

Roughly 60 per cent of the central bank's deposits were held in London and were accordingly frozen by the *Mareva* injunction. The evidence impelled the conclusion that the injunction seriously had interfered with the central bank's normal manner of business.

A trial in such a complex action as the present had to be a long way ahead. To maintain the *Mareva* injunction meantime would be likely to inflict irreparable harm on the bank.

If the injunction were lifted, his Lordship accepted that it was possible that a judgment obtained by Poly Peck would be worthless.

However, on balance the *Mareva* injunction should be discharged because (i) Poly Peck's present claim against the central bank was no more than speculative, and (ii) it was wrong in principle to grant a *Mareva*

injunction so as, before liability was established, to interfere with the normal course of the defendant's business.

To impose a *Mareva* injunction that would have that effect, in order to protect a cause of action that was no more than speculative, was not simply wrong in principle but positively unfair.

But an interlocutory injunction to preserve the sum subject to the tracing claim pending trial would be appropriate, not on principles applicable to the *Mareva* jurisdiction, but on the basic prescribed by American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd (1975) AC 396.

**THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS**, agreeing, said that the special problem arising in the case of a *Mareva* injunction being granted against a defendant bank was rooted in the fact that the bank's stock in trade was money borrowed from depositors.

In the case of a trading company there was no difficulty in leaving it free to trade on the footing that, in so far as it sold its stock, it would be required either to preserve the proceeds of sale or to use them to buy other stock to which the injunction would apply.

In the case of a bank, in so far as it was called on to repay its depositors, there would be no proceeds of sale and its assets, although not its net assets, would thereby be reduced. That reduction would, however, be in the ordinary course of its business and it would be contrary to the principles governing *Mareva* injunctions to seek to prevent it.

His Lordship was not to be asked as to whether a *Mareva* injunction could never be granted against a bank, but the circumstances would have to be unusual.

His Lordship agreed with the orders proposed by Lord Justice Scott.

Lord Justice Stocker agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Theodore Goddard; Alsop Wilkinson.

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Edward Fennell reports on the lawyers taking a leading role in sponsoring advice centres to give guidance on business opportunities on the Continent

# Tunnel vision of European future

The European Information Centre for Kent, which was formally opened this week, owes most of its backing to Penningtons, the City firm of lawyers working with the county council, the National Westminster Bank and the accountancy firm KPMG Peat Marwick.

The opening coincides with European Week for Business, which started yesterday but could be lost in the hurly-burly of the election. In a county obsessed by the Channel tunnel, however, much is being made of this initiative. The new centre, part-funded by the European Commission, will plug a gap in the local availability of information and guidance about opportunities in the single market.

Kent, probably more than any other region, has seized the European initiative. In particular, it has

forged close connections with the Nord-Pas de Calais and the local government authority in the south of Belgium. By going into Kent, Penningtons believes it has parlayed itself with one of the newly emergent "Euro-regions".

Will businesses in Kent have their horizons widened sufficiently to take advantage of their promising geographical position? Chris Dorner, the county council's assistant director of economic development, admits that Kent is parochial by tradition. In any case, if people feel adventurous, they need only go to London to seek their fortunes.

Now that the Channel tunnel and the single market are looming, however, planners are trying to persuade local enterprise that the time has come to look south and east to the 300 million people across the water.

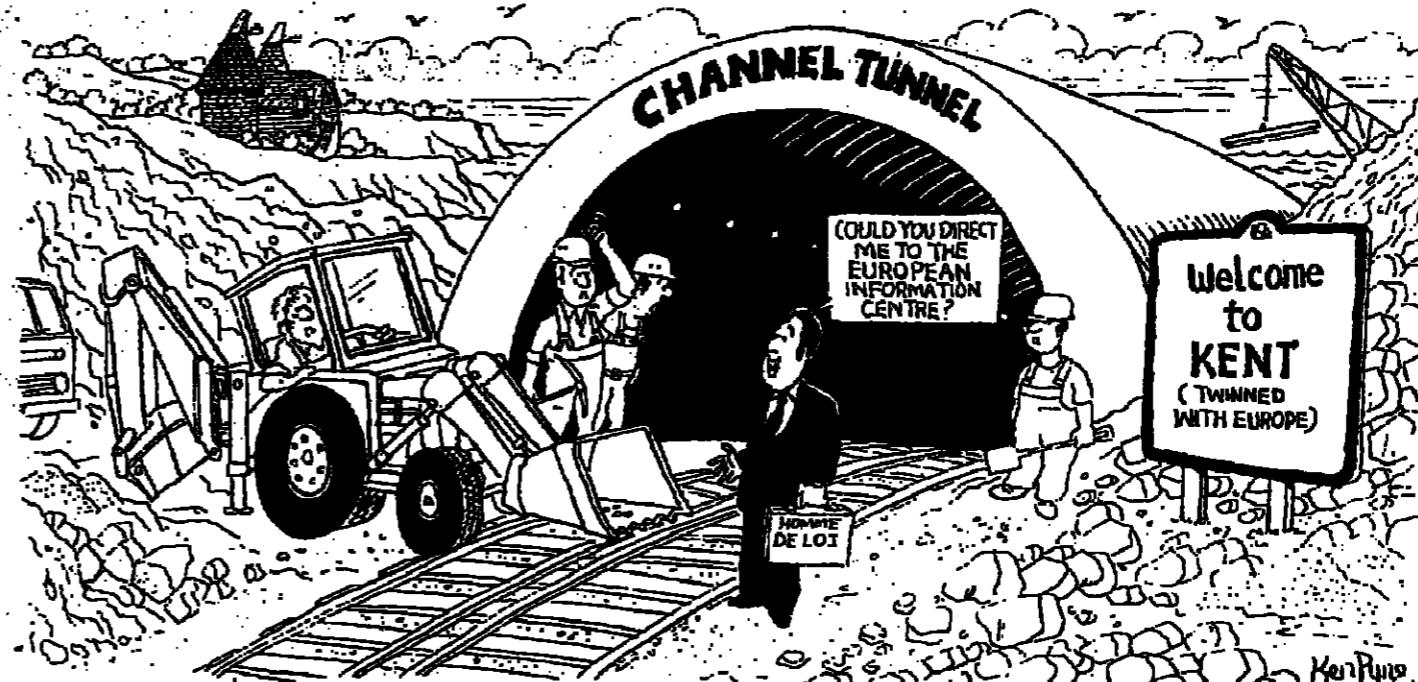
Well-informed, up-to-date legal

advice is critical to that development. It will be hard at first to know where to start selling into Europe without talking first to the lawyers. Although Penningtons tends to concentrate on small to medium-sized enterprises it realises that European Community law expertise is essential to its service.

The firm has opened an office in Brussels and is a member of the European Law Group, one of the oldest cross-border associations of lawyers.

The link with Kent's new European Information Centre will see Penningtons supporting seminars and other information sessions and giving basic advice to individual potential clients.

Michael Nathanson, the Penningtons partner behind the scheme, says: "It gives the firm great marketing exposure to the kind of people we want to act for. There



may be some free preliminary information but once we start talking about individual transactions, we will start charging fees."

Turner Kenneth Brown is just nearing the end of its three-year sponsorship of the European Information Centre in Reading. Berk-

shire, where the firm has an office to serve its local high-tech industry clients. "We decided to back the centre in Reading because it was a worthwhile thing to do in itself and because we were building our links with the EC," says Chris Green, the firm's marketing director. Sponsor-

ship is not being extended because it has done its job. A lot more people in Reading now know about us because of the centre."

Mr Green admits that the connection has brought in relatively few solid clients. The biggest users of the centre's services are smaller

companies or individuals who may not be able to afford the services of a City firm. But if a business is so small that it needs the help of a centre, will it ever be a suitable client for big London firms? Penningtons now has a chance to find out.

## Secrecy endemic despite charter

**Do government proposals to unlock information go far enough?**

July 1991 marked the unveiling of the citizen's charter, which embodied the principles of "transparency and openness" and "freedom of information", according to Francis Maude, the treasury minister. These principles, he promised, would be vigorously pursued. John Major reiterated his determination to tackle these issues in a recent meeting with Conservative backbenchers.

Unfortunately, when presented a few weeks ago with an opportunity to demonstrate the government's new-found determination on freedom of information, Tim Renton, the minister for the civil service, lapsed into backsliding, describing Archy Kirkwood's Freedom of Information Bill as "excessive", "unnecessary" and, somewhat bizarrely, "impracticable to men and women of good will".

Mr Kirkwood's bill would have created a public right of access to records of government departments and public authorities, although information harmful to interests such as defence, law enforcement or privacy would not be disclosed. In opposing such a right, the

Minister was unequivocal: "Open government", he said, "is about the voluntary creation by the government of the conditions for an informed democracy." For a nation of people still legally defined as subjects rather than citizens, this attitude is not new. But the government's voluntary disclosure of information and selected rights of access could be firmer.

To support the government's record, the minister cited assistance given to the 1990 Access to Health Records Bill (now an Act), also introduced by Mr Kirkwood. Interestingly, the government's "assistance" was not viewed in such a favourable light at the

time: it was accused of delaying progress, playing parliamentary games and trying to kill the bill by procedural trickery.

Far from being an isolated incident, conduct of this sort is endemic. The temptation to avoid criticism by distorting or withholding the truth almost invariably outweighs any inclination towards full disclosure.

Recent research by the Campaign for Freedom of Information has revealed how pervasive secrecy is. Confidential information includes the names of British slaughterhouses that lost their licences to export to European Community countries because of poor hygiene, kept secret in case exposure would be "detrimental to their trading position"; details of the transport department's vehicle certification agency test results on cars for pollution and safety; punishments imposed by police disciplinary tribunals; results of fire brigade inspections at British Rail stations; and notices issued by the transport department's marine directorate requiring ferry companies to deal with breaches of safety procedures relating to lifeboats, lifejackets and fire equipment.

Mr Kirkwood's "unnecessary" and "excessive" bill and promised Labour and Liberal Democratic legislation would have given citizens the right to this and other information.

The citizen's charter proposals to publish examination results and health-authority and local-authority performance targets are useful. But more must be done to give people the means to make fully informed choices on who should govern, to scrutinise policies or to contribute effectively to the democratic process.

HENRY WITCOMB  
• The author is a practising barrister and campaigner

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# Couples carries the burden of expectation



Couples: tipped for Masters

FROM MITCHELL PLATT  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN ORLANDO

THE challenge facing Fred Couples now he is the No. 1 player in the world will be to handle the inevitable pressure of being the United States' latest golf hope.

Couples has still to graduate to the status of true champion by winning one of the four major titles. Yet his credentials are so formidable that many will be willing him to reach new peaks each week.

He awoke yesterday, following his astonishing nine-shot win in the Nestlé Invitational tournament here, to find coast-to-coast cover stories claiming that he was the dominant player for whom the US PGA Tour had long been searching.

That cannot be disputed. Couples has won five of the 22 tournaments he has played since the US Open last June. That includes the Johnnie Walker world championship. This season, he is 115 under

par for eight tournaments; and in his last four, he has won twice and finished runner-up twice.

Couples, however, is embarrassed. "I'm not comfortable with the No. 1 ranking," he said. "I need to have done more than I have to be there. I'm a mile from being a dominant player. There are 30 players who are just as good as me. It's simply my time, my month."

Even so, Couples has the image as well as the talent to restore American pride in a game that has been dominated by Europeans in recent years. He is the boy next door whom every father would want as his son-in-law; and his placid demeanour has given rise to the quip that at some time he must have undergone an ego bypass.

His swing is a thing of beauty, slow and smooth, and he has a full repertoire of shots. He might be nicknamed "Boom-Boom" but there is more to his game than a 300-yard drive. He has learned to move the ball both ways, his irons

are struck with classic authority, and he puts with complete confidence. Jack Nicklaus said: "He's one of the most talented players I've ever seen."

The transformation of Couples, aged 32, began at The Belfry in 1989 when he lost to Christy O'Connor Jr in the Ryder Cup. There, at the 18th, O'Connor hit the green with a two-iron and Couples missed an elementary approach with a nine-iron. Tony Jacklin, standing next to O'Connor, had predicted that Couples would fold under the pressure.

"I think losing that day motivated me," Couples said. "I really feel bad about it. It hit me hard because I had let my team-mates down but I guess it toughened me up."

Even so, the real examination begins now because Couples is regarded as the American most likely to win the Masters, which starts in little more than two weeks' time. If he wins at Augusta, then it is highly likely that Couples can become the most

## COUPLE'S RISE TO THE TOP

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: (US unless stated): 1, F Couples, 16.14pts average; 2, N Faldo (GB), 15.83; 3, J-M Olazabal (Sp), 15.78; 4, P. Woosnam (Wales), 15.63; 5, S. Galvani (Portugal), 15.61; 6, L. Lampert (USA), 13.71; 7, G. Stewart (Aus), 11.59; 8, P. Azinger, 10.15; 10, M. McElroy (Zim), 9.46; 11, Rodger Davis (Aus), 8.83; 12, I. Baker-Finch (Aus), 8.54; 13, M' O'Meara (Aus), 8.19; 15, H. Irwin (USA), 8.16; R. Refferty (Ire), 7.51; 17, D. Lowe III, 7.29; 19, C. Pavin, 7.26; 19, R. Floyd, 7.03; 20, J. Cook, 6.86.

Couples's 1992 record: Tournament of Champions: Tied 3rd; 72, 70, 68, 70 - 280 (-4), \$41,600; Bob Hope Classic: Tied 8th; 68, 67, 64, 69 - 237 (-2), \$36,225; Northern Telecom Open: Tied 16th; 74, 67, 88, 68 - 271 (-1), \$15,437; Buick Invitational: Tied 5th; 67, 69, 70, 70 - 281 (-1), \$15,155; Los Angeles Open: 1st; 58, 67, 64, 70 - 288 (-1), \$180,000; Doral Ryder Open: Tied 2nd; 66, 69, 63 - 273 (-1); 1992 Honda Classic: Second; 69, 68, 65, 71 - 273 (-1), \$118,000; Nestle Invitation: 1st; 67, 69, 63, 70 - 269 (-1).

I am hitting the ball I am looking forward to Augusta. But I've always had a tendency to get ahead of myself and I believe I've played well this last year by taking it shot by shot. So I'm not thinking any further ahead than my opening drive in The Players' Championship, which starts on Thursday.

What is certain is that Couples has left behind the days when he was so forgetful that he arrived for one tournament not realising he had not entered. More import-

tant, he is making full use of a raw talent that encouraged him to turn professional in 1980 when he arrived at a tournament in California only to find there were no places for amateurs. He went to the US tour qualifying school later that year, finished the leading rookie in 1981 and was hailed as having a big future on winning The Players' Championship in 1984.

Since then, Curtis Strange and Payne Stewart have emerged as the players most likely to lead American golf into a new era, but with the Masters on the horizon there can be no question Couples is holding the baton. Just how far he can run with it remains to be seen.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 269: Couples, 67, 69, 63, 70 - 278; G. Saurez, 70, 65, 73, 291; D. Watson, 74, 69, 70, 68; J. Huston, 68, 71, 73, 69; M. Brooks, 68, 75, 69, 69; J. Stevens, 68, 71, 73, 69 - 279; T. Kite, 68, 69, 67, 70; B. Faxon, 71, 73, 68, 70; D. Love, 74, 70, 67, 71 - 283; N. Price (Zim), 70, 74, 71, 69; B. Gartner, 72, 69, 71, 69; M. Harwood (Aus), 69, 70, 71, 69 - 284; G. Langer, 73, 69, 68, 75, 71, 67, 71 - 285; J. Sander, 74, 71, 72, 69; R. Floyd, 72, 69, 72, 68 - 286; Lee, 64, 71, 71.

## MOTOR RACING

### McLaren gathers resources for attempted surge

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN MEXICO CITY

THIS is going to be a great season for Formula One. The gauntlet that Williams has thrown McLaren has turned the world championship into a competition that should see-saw through the next races and provide support with greater excitement.

Two races gone, and two first and second places for Nigel Mansell and Ricardo Patrese. To stop this onslaught, McLaren is prepared to take six cars to Brazil in a fortnight. That means that beside the regular pit crew, it will have to send the test-team mechanics, those who have worked on the MP4/7, the "fly-by-wire" car, over the last few weeks in Silverstone. The logistics are daunting, but winning is all to Ron Dennis, and his McLaren team is one of the few with the money to buy success.

Gérard Berger will again

be at the Northamptonshire racetrack this week, putting the new car through its paces. Ayrton Senna will, of course, go home to Brazil to rest and recuperate from the accident he had on Friday here in qualifying. Mansell never tires of warning that McLaren will not take these defeats "sitting down". His words reflect the belief that McLaren will not be panicked into making mistakes. Teams on this level have huge resources, both in human and technical terms.

But there was a feeling in Mexico, before and after the race, that McLaren was rated

by the strength in depth of Williams. It did not help

McLaren, fielding a car that was both

overweight and under-

powered, managed to qualify

both of its drivers in front of

Senna and Berger. This fear,

and the number of accidents

that McLaren suffered over

the weekend, has prompted

some in the team — and at Honda, too — to say that the absence of qualifying tyres had led to Senna's accident.

Dennis called for a return to soft tyres, or those used only once to set a fast lap. "It's too dangerous to have all these cars lapping over and over again on race tyres. Soon we will have a bad accident."

Mansell and Patrese have also been lobbying for a return to soft tyres. This has angered the smaller teams.

Flavio Briatore, of Benetton, said: "We don't have special qualifying engines, or even fuel. This narrows the gap, that's good for us." Peter Collins, of Lotus, added: "This way we have more of a chance to qualify high on the grid. This way McLaren and Williams have less of an advantage."

Both spoke before the meeting yesterday when it was decided not to go back to qualifying tyres. Both teams' results vindicated their managers' position. For once, the small teams won the day, something that must be good for the sport.

RESULTS (20 laps): 1991: 1, N. Mansell (GB), Williams, 1hr 31min 52.07sec (average speed 170.29mph); 2, R. Patrese (Ita), McLaren, 1hr 31min 52.14sec; 3, M. Schumacher (Ger), Benetton, at 21.42s; 4, G. Berger (Aust), McLaren, at 33.347s; 5, A. De Cesaris (Ita), Tyrrell, at one sec; 6, M. Andretti (USA), Williams, at 1.41s; 7, J. Herbert (GB), Lotus, at one lap; 8, J. Lauda (Fra), Williams, at one lap; 9, S. Cowper (Fra), Ligier, at two laps; 10, B. Gachot (Fra), Lamborghini, at 3 laps; 11, U. Kleyberg (Ned), Lamborghini, at 3 laps; 12, M. Almeras (Fra), Williams, at 4 laps; 13, M. Moreno (Spa), Williams, at 4 laps; 14, M. Brundle (GB), Benetton, 47 laps covered; 15, G. Tarquini (Ita), Formula 3000, at 1.41s; 16, A. Capelli (Swit), Formula 3000, at 1.41s; 17, P. Tamburini (Ita), Formula 3000, at 1.41s; 18, A. Senna (Br), McLaren, 21; 22, C. Fitzgerald (Br), Minardi, 22; 23, S. Modena (Ita), Jordan, 23; 24, J. Villeneuve (Can), Williams, 24; 25, J. Alcock (Prt), Formula, 31; 19, G. Morbidelli (Ita), Minardi, 23; 20, S. Modena (Ita), Jordan, 23; 21, J. Villeneuve (Can), Williams, 24; 22, M. Gugelmin (Br), Jordan, fastest lap: Berger, 1min 17.71sec (204.805mph).

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Drivers: 1, N. Mansell, 209; 2, Patrese, 12; 3, Schumacher, 7; 4, Berger, 5; 5, A. Senna, 4; 6, G. Tarquini, 3; 7, A. Capelli, 2; 8, Moreno, 1; 9, Modena, 1; 10, Villeneuve, 1; 11, Tamburini, 1; 12, Gugelmin, 1; 13, Jordan, fastest lap: Berger, 1min 17.71sec (204.805mph).

## TABLE TENNIS

### Chen can claim medal

CHEN Xinhua has been selected for a European championship for the first time with his inclusion yesterday in the seven-strong England squad for next month's event in Stuttgart (Richard Eaton writes).

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund raiser and a jumbo obozo and magnum of champagne, respectively, to your beneficiaries to The

second and third.

Charity away from home: Black in training



Charity away from home: Black in training

"But really I am not interested in the time. The emphasis is on raising money for Trevor."

□ The Times and Unisys, the official ADT London Marathon computer service — hope that by featuring the efforts of our team of fund runners we will help them to find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly stating your beneficiaries to The

Times/Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Please make cheques payable to the appropriate fund-runner and we will send on your donations.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund raiser and a jumbo obozo and magnum of champagne, respectively, to the second and third.

## ICE HOCKEY

### Britain team takes significant step

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

FOLLOWING the excitement of Great Britain's promotion to the Autumn Cup, which will now be known as the Benson and Hedges Cup. An annual £70,000 inflation-linked sponsorship fund will be made available, with the winners in 1992 receiving £2,000.

There will be a new format next season which will enable all premier division and first division teams to take part and both the preliminary and draw stages will be on a knockout basis.

The preliminary matches will start the last weekend of August and the final, at a venue yet to be decided, will be on December 5.

Britain gained their victory over North Korea in the most emphatic manner. Tony Hand opened the scoring

after only four minutes, and added a second in the eleventh minute.

Great Britain had four goals on the board by the end of the first period, and, in spite of the Koreans switching goalkeepers three times during the second period, eight more goals were added.

The game was physical and the Koreans did not endear themselves to the large crowd by repeatedly feigning injury. The Danish referee handed out a total of 61 minutes in penalties, and seemed to miss several infractions, which one felt were more serious than some of those which were punished.

But all this was forgotten in the excitement of victory and the prospect of entering pool B next year.

## TENNIS

### Chang lacks power to deliver the goods like Courier

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN KEY BISCAYNE

THIS time last year, Jim Courier had just completed successive tournament wins in Indian Wells and Key Biscayne. With that springboard of confidence, Courier leapt into the top ten, won his first grand slam title at the French Open two months later, and finally ascended to No. 1 earlier this year.

Whether Michael Chang, who beat Alberto Martínez 7-5, 7-5 to win his first Lipton title, after his victory in Indian Wells, can progress with the same speed is doubtful.

It is hard to remember that the young American is still just one month beyond his twentieth birthday and, at Lipton, has added yet another line to his "youngest ever" list. Somehow, with his fresh, wise face and serious manner, Chang seems ageless. But wit, speed and an extraordinary strength of will — qualities presumably appreciated by Robin Hood's alias, Kevin Costner, who was the most notable VIP in the crowd of 12,000 for the final — might not be enough to combat the bigger men when they are firing on all cylinders.

Chang sprang to prominence, becoming, at just 17 years and three months, the youngest men's singles grand slam champion. The weight of the record books, though, proved too heavy and for the last two years Chang has been relegated to the bottom of the pack of American pretenders as he struggled to develop a game to cope with the big hitters. He hired Phil Dent.

Chang: up to No. 6

**BASKETBALL**

### Greece should provide test

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

GREAT Britain are to play two matches against Greece in preparation for their Olympic Games qualifying programme in June.

In terms of opposition, the Greeks will provide a stern test. They were European champions in 1987, when they beat the Soviet Union 103-101 in the final, and runners-up two years later.

In terms of match conditions, it will give Britain a taste of what to expect should they reach the Olympic finals

Lilleham and also take on the touring University of Nebraska side. After Greece, a four-team tournament in Germany, a possible fixture with Israel and a warm-up against Portugal complete the pre-Olympic agenda.

The serious business starts against Estonia on June 22, followed by Lithuania, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Hungary and the Netherlands.

Results and table, page 37

## SQUASH RACKETS

### Devoy back in old routine

SUSAN Devoy's third successive victory in the Guernsey women's open championship on Sunday bodes well for her declared ambition of reclaiming the British open title at Wembley next month (Colin McQuillan writes).

The world champion defeated Martine Le Moignan, the England No. 1, 9-5, 9-1, 9-4 in 39 minutes at St Peter Port. In Madrid earlier this month and in Cardiff in February, Le Moignan was also Devoy's final victim. Before Christmas in Amsterdam the New Zealander, aged 28, defeated Sue Wright, the British national champion, to whom she lost in last year's British open quarter-finals.

RESULTS: First, S. Devoy (NZ) bt M. Le Moignan (Eng), 9-5, 9-1, 9-4.

# Tug Of Gold fancied to follow up

A RARE programme composed entirely of steeplechases is the treat in store at Sandown Park today.

Top weight in the VSEL Alabrook Memorial Handicap Chase will be carried by Mr Frisk who will always be remembered for landing the Whitbread Gold Cup on today's track two years ago just three weeks after winning the Grand National.

This is Mr Frisk's last season in training and I know that his trainer, Kim Bailey, would dearly love to call it a day in the aftermath of just one more victory. Time will tell whether today is that occasion.

With the weights going up 5lb overnight, Mr Frisk will need to be at his very best to concede 20lb to the in-form Tug Of Gold. Basically, that has not been apparent so

**MICHAEL PHILLIPS**

far this season now that he has reached the age of 13.

In contrast, Tug Of Gold enters the fray fresh from winning the Fiske Waiwai-Kim Muir Challenge Cup at Cheltenham where, ironically, he was ridden by Mr Frisk's regular jockey, Marcus Armitage.

Richard Dunwoody takes over again on Tug Of Gold this afternoon and no one deserves to win on this horse more than he does. The combination appeared to have a good chance of collecting at Ludlow last month until encountering a loose horse coming at them from the opposite direction on the run-in.

Forces into taking evasive

action. Tug Of Gold lost his momentum and was beaten three-quarters of a length by Romans Birthday.

Dunwoody will also be capable of winning the Royal Ordnance Handicap Chase for David Nicholson on Al Hashmi, who ran well when runner-up to Elfest over today's course and distance in February before producing a rather tame effort in the Grand Annual Challenge Cup at Cheltenham.

On this occasion, though, I prefer Le Chat Noir who got his act together at Lingfield ten days ago after two sound placed efforts at Folkestone.

The Right O'The Line Handicap Chase can go to Clara Mountain, a long-time favourite with those who race regularly at Sandown, while Richard Holder's versatile eight-year-old, Star Season,

is napped to win the British Aerospace Rapier Novices' Chase after taking similar events at Newton Abbot and Hereford.

Following that promising effort behind Plastic Space-age at Wolverhampton eight

days ago, Richville now looks capable of giving Jon Trice Ralph a second successive victory in the Royal Artillery Gold Cup, having won it 12 months ago with Roscoe Harvey.

The RM Group Ubique Hunter Chase can go to Wellington Brown, who has carried all before him so far this spring at Larkhill, Kempton and Wincanton.

FRANCOIS Doumen, train-

er of Cheltenham Gold Cup

runner-up The Fellow, yesterday spoke out in support of Jenny Pitman in the row over the tactics of Golden Freeze in the Gold Cup.

Doumen says he saw nothing untoward in the running of Golden Freeze and is surprised the Jockey Club has ordered an enquiry.

"There was no interference," Doumen said.

"Golden Freeze didn't bump anything. He was just running in front. I have a few

horses that run from the front and nobody says to me that they will leave them alone."

The only thing I know is that if a horse is a champion, he can be a champion from the front or with a horse next to him.

The Fellow, who went down by a short head for the second year in succession, runs on Sunday at Auteuil as part of his build-up for the Grand Steeplechase de Paris in June, a race he won last year.

The Fellow has been thriving since his defeat by Cool Ground and Doumen reports: "He is set to carry a lot of weight but he is so well that I want to run him. The only thing that will stop him is rain which came on Sports News in division two of the restricted.

Speakers Corner, winner of the Land Rover Qualifier by a distance, will probably next be seen in the Liverpool Foxhunters for which the Tweseldown Club open winner, Ascotmoor, is also destined.

In the ladies' open at the Tweseldown, Qannah, under Jackie Wickham, reversed early-season form with Pheliof (Tabaha Cave) in the fast time of 9min 9sec.

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# Tension and travesty in a World Cup cauldron



Wessels: took a risk

**World waits on seven-hour penalty shoot-out**

## Real cricket takes a back seat as final approaches

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MELBOURNE

THE World Cup is compulsive viewing, a penalty shoot-out expanded from ten minutes to seven hours. It is like waiting for the solicitor to ring to say the buyer has exchanged contracts on your house, when you have already signed for the next, more expensive, one.

England, the favourites, go into the World Cup final tomorrow wondering if they will be gazumped by the flash lot without a bank account, Pakistan; no doubt with Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister, waiting in the wings to blow raspberries.

The joy of real cricket (on which I was weaned, fielding as a ten-year-old at the nets for Hassett and Miller) is that, as in a tale of Maugham or Jane Austen, virtue and frailty slowly evolve, and the conclusion of that unresolved, occasional intellectual masterpiece, the draw, can be left hanging in the mind of the reader/viewer.

In World Cup cricket, like the plot of *EastEnders*, you jump from an abortion to inheriting uncle's unknown legacy, to a walk-on-the-registry office stirs, all in the space of 25 minutes.

There is time as a spectator at real cricket to meet a friend, post a letter, telephone the office with an excuse, even to fall in love, and still not lose the thread. There is no time out here for a yawn. Go and buy a cup of coffee, and you may miss the vital statistics of half Botham's career. It is, of course, the World Cup that sustains his career.

The limited overs game is to the art of Geoff Boycott what the jacuzzi is to the marathon. When the mad mandarins of administration take over, as they did in the semi-final between England and South Africa on Sunday, with algebraic calculation of the rainfall, the game makes less sense than *A Night at the Opera*.

The talk here is less what will happen at the historic Melbourne Cricket Ground tomorrow than what an absurdity was the Sydney semi-final.

I do not get the impression that Australians are gleefully awaiting the fall of Gooch and Botham. For a start the Aussie is essentially a good sportsman — especially when not in contention — and besides which, as Keating has implied, half the population is now Greek, Yugoslav or Oriental; they think if you do not speak English with an Australian accent, you must be American.

I asked my taxi driver from the airport here if he was from Belgrade. "I am Grik," he said indignantly. "From historic country." To him, cricket meant as much as a Super Bowl. The Greek who drove me to Sydney airport was so busy telling me, at 20mph, about the girl he met and married in Birmingham, and why he was supported Gooch and Co, that I nearly missed the plane.

If you want to know what the weather forecast means that the mandarin mathematicians should not be needed. Tomorrow is expected to be fine in the high twenties, moving towards 30C on Thursday: perhaps just the conditions to lift the quixotic Imran and his volatile crew. Will the flamboyant Inzamam, a 22-year-old without a Test match behind him, be man of the match?

The one-day game unquestionably perverts convention. Batsmen no longer play strokes; late cutting or pulling, they "work the ball". Runs are snatched when the ball drops dead off the pitch like something out of *It's A Knockout*.

But the fascination is that every ball and every stroke is perceived as being five times as important as in real cricket, the importance ascending as one moves towards the last few overs of each innings. It can be fraying stuff, on or off the pitch.

If you want to know what

World Cup cricket is doing to the game, just wait for the Japanese. They have overtaken the American motor trade, and they have hired Gary Lineker. Cricket may come next. A tour party of 150 Japanese students checked in ahead of me at Sydney. They learned the game at overseas universities, imported it, and now were attendant at Mecca. The problem for the Japanese, I would have supposed, is that having an lbw appeal rejected must be a cultural impasse. Loss of face.

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JOHN WOODCOCK IN SYDNEY

That, surely, was an awful moment for cricket when the second semi-final of the World Cup ended as it did in Sydney on Sunday. In more than 40 years of writing about the game, I think I have never before felt such despair.

But before we proceed on that tack, it might be as well to stress the very highly charged and competitive atmosphere in which international cricket is now played. Perhaps most of all this applies to the World Cup, basically because of the nature of the matches.

In Test cricket, when feelings can run just as high, there is time to cool off. The Sydney Cricket Ground between 2.30 in the afternoon and 10.30 at night — the hours of a one-day interna-

tional — becomes a veritable cauldron.

None of us can say how amid such tension, we would have reacted had we been in Graham Gooch's shoes, when England were given the chance to run for cover with South Africa needing 22 runs to win from the 13 balls remaining.

Most of us never will be subjected to remotely comparable pressures. It is one thing to say that we would somehow have insisted on justice being done but, with so much at stake, there can be no certainty that we would.

To take the option of leaving the field in heavy rain was no more than many captains would have done — Kepler Wessels, on his own admission, among them.

Had Gooch stayed on and given South Africa their chance, I doubt whether he would be regretting it.

Win or lose — and the odds were still quite heavily in England's favour — he would have been hailed for his sportsmanship. But he was being urged to go off by more than one of his senior players and the time had come, anyway, when the fielding side was getting much the worse of it.

There would have been no way of knowing it was a passing shower, as there might have been in daytime. Above and beyond the Sydney lights, the night sky is a dome of unalleviated blackness, however broken the clouds may be.

So when, very soon, the rain stopped, it was natural to think that providence, after all, was to be even-handed. Wonderful. One thought: the side that deserves to reach a World Cup final is going to be seen in the end to do so.

What followed was nothing less than a travesty. Are we really to believe that there was nobody on the ground with the authority and acumen to convey to those involved how important it was to seek a happier solution than the one delivered by the palpably unfair rule regarding the revision of a target after rain? In

other words, was the World Cup of 1992 to be remembered as much for that as for the good things to have come out of it?

Players are constantly being reminded of their responsibility as entertainers and, now, in 40 countries around the world, television viewers, many millions of them, were being held enthralled by the match.

When they were deprived of the climax that the previous seven-and-a-half hours had been devoted to providing, very few, if any, would have turned off their sets, at whatever time of day, or night it was for them, without a sense of outrage. Before one of the largest audiences that will ever have had, the game was made to look utterly foolish.

Gooch, a splendid sportsman that he is, was outwardly embarrassed when England were presented with the match and, on reflection, perhaps inwardly so.

Messrs Aldridge and Randall, the umpires, showed no evident imagination or, for that matter, urgency when, very soon, the rain began to ease. But it is the organising committee — and it was there in force — that had most to answer for.

The nonsense for that is what it was, was of its making, though you would hardly have thought so from what Graham Hallish, general manager of the Australian Cricket Board, speaking on behalf of the World Cup committee, said: "I don't believe the match was a farce. Like the semi-final in Auckland, it was a magnificent game of cricket."

"It was just unfortunate that rain intervened. It was not the fault of the umpires, the World Cup committee or anyone else — it was an act of God." He could be saying next, in view of South Africa's frustration, that it was the Almighty's way of casting a "no" vote.

## Stephenson helps England to make the breakthrough

FROM RICHARD STREETON, IN ARNS VALE, ST VINCENT

JOHN Stephenson's amiable medium pace brought him four for 22, three of his successes coming from return catches, as West Indies finished with a first-innings lead of 61 yesterday in the second A team Test match here. The last four West Indian wickets had been 115 aggressive runs before they were all out for 302 and an early tea was taken.

Stephenson, bowling for the first time in the innings, once again on this tour obtained the breakthroughs England wanted. He had Murray leg-before in his third over and then held a fiercely driven return catch from Perry in his next.

Murray had stayed a further hour and had outscored Holder during a fifth-wicket stand worth 77 in 29 overs. Stephenson was not used until the 63rd over, the pitch seemingly having nothing to offer him. As always, though, he seemed to trouble the West Indians. Murray was stretching forward when he was leg-before.

After lunch the pattern changed dramatically, as Munton and Cork shared a new ball. The next six overs cost 35, with Cork conceding 23 of them. Holder, hitherto firmly in his shell, pulled and drove freely as the Derbyshire man tried to extract pace from a lifeless pitch.

Munton finally ended a stand which had added 62 in 20 overs for the seventh wicket.

Munton brought one back as Gray pushed forward and the ball also kept low.

Cork was replaced by Croft after his three poor overs and Holder hit the off-spinner's first ball like a bullet straight back at him along the ground for four. The next ball, though, Holder was beaten through the air, and Rhodes brought off the best of several leg-side stumpings he has made on this tour.

In all Holder batted nearly 3 3/4 hours, hit eight fours and faced 155 balls.

Any hope England had that the end was in sight was soon dispelled as Joseph and Benjamin hit aggressively.

ENGLAND First Innings  
14. J. Stephenson c Murray b Joseph ..... 4  
15. D. Holder c Murray b Joseph ..... 41  
16. M. R. Munton c Gray b Perry ..... 58  
17. P. Johnson bowled by Benjamin ..... 19  
18. J. Stephenson c Lambert b Perry ..... 6  
19. R. G. Cook c Murray b Joseph ..... 17  
20. D. G. Croft c Lambert b Perry ..... 7  
21. T. A. Munton c Best b Perry ..... 4  
22. S. L. Waugh not out ..... 0  
23. E. S. Gray not out ..... 21  
Total ..... 241  
Fall of WICKETS: 1-4, 2-114, 4-154, 5-183, 6-191, 7-220, 8-228.  
BOWLING: Jofesh 22-4-62-2; Benjamin 20-4-81-2; Waugh 21-5-73-1; Gray 15-52-2; Perry 26-4-81-4; Cook 10-12-2.

WEST INDIES First Innings  
14. M. Stephenson c Croft ..... 17  
15. D. Holder c Murray b Joseph ..... 43  
16. R. G. Cook c Munro b Stephenson ..... 54  
17. C. A. Munro c Stephenson b Stephenson ..... 19  
18. J. Stephenson c Lambert b Perry ..... 18  
19. R. G. Cook c Murray b Joseph ..... 17  
20. D. G. Croft c Lambert b Perry ..... 7  
21. T. A. Munton c Best b Perry ..... 4  
22. S. L. Waugh not out ..... 0  
23. E. S. Gray not out ..... 21  
Total (for 4 wickets) ..... 142  
Fall of WICKETS: 1-71, 2-67, 3-70, 4-102, 5-108, 6-115, 7-122, 8-128, 9-132, 10-140.  
BOWLING: Munton 8-1-21-2; Cork 10-2-22-2; Stephenson 8-1-22-2; Croft 20-5-49-3; Stephenson 4-1-6-0.  
Umpires: D Archer and G Johnson.

## South Africa select the same squad

Cape Town: The South Africa selectors have given their World Cup players a vote of confidence, following the controversial semi-final defeat against England, by picking the entire squad for the tour of the West Indies next month.

Peter van der Merwe, selection convenor of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), said that Stephenson, the captain, would lead the same squad for a four-match Test series, including the first five-day Test since South Africa was readmitted to international sport last year.

Van der Merwe said the selectors believed that even those who had minor roles in the World Cup campaign "still played an integral part in the team's success." But there is still no room for the experienced batsman, Jimmy Cook, and the former captain, Clive Rice, who were both overlooked for the World Cup.

An official of the UCBSA said the squad would return home from Australia on Thursday and leave for the West Indies on April 3.

Of the defeat against England, Ali Bacher, chief executive of the UCBSA, said that the decision was in line with rules accepted by all the teams. "We lost the match but we won the praise," he said. (Reuters)

SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD: \*K C Wessels, A C Hudson, P N Kristen, G J Cook, M W Rushmore, A P Kalper, J N Rhodes, B M Richardson, O J Cook, D L Johnson, T J Richardson, P R Shek, M W Pringe, A A Donald.

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say goodbye to his Australian admirers.

Imran also said he found it hard to believe an extra day was not put aside for each match, as in the four previous World Cups, to allow for rain.

His comments followed the chaotic finish to the day-night semi-final between England and South Africa in Sydney on Sunday.

"I sympathise with the South Africans. They had an outside chance of winning and then suddenly they had no chance," Imran said.

"I think it's a ridiculous rule. We shouldn't have a rule like this which decides the fate of the team."

Imran added that more time and effort should have been put into finding a better method for resolving rain-hit matches, but insisted that the best remedy was extra time.



One-day wonder: Botham, whose career has benefited from the World Cup

## Selectors asked Crowe to relinquish cup captaincy

Wellington: Martin Crowe was asked by the New Zealand selectors to stand down as captain the day before the World Cup started. His wife, Simone, said yesterday, in a Television New Zealand programme, Crowe — voted player of the qualifying round — told how he had learned to live with rumours about homosexuality and AIDS.

His wife fought back tears in an interview recorded just after Pakistan beat New Zea-

land in Saturday's semi-final. She said: "It's amazing to know that the day before the World Cup team was announced that a couple of the selectors asked Martin to resign.

"Right now they're eating their words, despite the fact that we've just lost. They had very little faith, and I feel they should have shown much more professionalism than that."

Crowe himself said that on

said I was not going to back down to these guys."

Crowe said rumours of homosexuality, AIDS and divorce had not worried him because they were "absolutely rubbish". His wife and friends were made uncomfortable having to defend him, "but you've got to laugh and you've got to get on with it", he said. It was the result, he said, of living in a small country, which he accepts.

"I take the option of being

out there because I just love representing my country, I love being a New Zealander, it fills me with great emotion and great pride."

Crowe and his wife, whose mother is from Florence, are shortly leaving for Italy and he will be advising the Italian team on how to qualify for the 1996 World Cup. After the glare of the World Cup spotlight, it will be a welcome time away from the game's pressures.

Lancashire yesterday announced that Danny Morrison, the New Zealand fast bowler, would replace Stephen Jack, of South Africa, as their overseas player for the 1992 season.

Jack had an operation on his foot in February and in light of medical advice his contract has been terminated. Morrison, who helped New Zealand to reach the World Cup semi-finals, has played 25 Tests.

237 (D M Jones 10), India 234 (M Asher 92, R Arshad 84, A Riaz 64 not out), Australia 227 (G Rainton 92 not out), New Zealand 220, Sri Lanka 198-2 (N M Mahendra 84, A Ranga 64 not out), West Indies 196-2 (R M Mahendra 84, A Ranga 64 not out), Pakistan 195-2 (M A Javed 70 and 62, M A Javed 57 not out), England 192-2 (R K Ruthven 62 not out), Zimbabwe 190-2 (M A Javed 62 not out), South Africa 186-2 (R Tendulkar 50 not out), India 185-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), New Zealand 184-2 (R M Mahendra 62, M A Javed 57 not out), Sri Lanka 183-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Australia 182-2 (R M Mahendra 50, M A Javed 57 not out), New Zealand 181-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Sri Lanka 180-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Australia 179-2 (R M Mahendra 50, M A Javed 57 not out), New Zealand 178-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Sri Lanka 177-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Australia 176-2 (R M Mahendra 50, M A Javed 57 not out), New Zealand 175-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Sri Lanka 174-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Australia 173-2 (R M Mahendra 50, M A Javed 57 not out), New Zealand 172-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Sri Lanka 171-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Australia 170-2 (R M Mahendra 50, M A Javed 57 not out), New Zealand 169-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Sri Lanka 168-2 (R K Ruthven 50 not out), Australia 167

## Assistance of Football Association is required

# Taylor calls for penalties to be imposed on clubs

FROM STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN PRAGUE

GRAHAM Taylor, disturbed by the state of his severely depleted squad, yesterday called for the assistance of the Football Association and the Premier League. As from next season, if the England manager has his way, penalties will be imposed on clubs who fail to release England internationals without good reason.

All of his predecessors have experienced the same frustrating disruption but Taylor is in a unique position. With the co-operation of the newly formed body, he can ensure that the country no longer continues to suffer for the sake of the domestic clubs.

That was supposed to be the fundamental principle behind the proposal put forward by Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive. During the protracted discussions and extensive revisions, though, it has become evident that the Premier League will be based next season merely on financial benefits.

Sir Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, admitted as much yesterday. Nevertheless, he sympathises with Taylor's opinion and does not rule out the possibility of official action being taken. It is conceivable, though improbable, that a new rule could soon be written into the constitution.

Taylor, who feels that some of the ten absences may have been withdrawn for less than convincing excuses, offers a simple solution. A club that

pulls out a member of any senior or junior national squad must submit a medical report which can be examined by the FA.

Should the appropriate document not be forthcoming, the player would not be available for the club's next fixture. If the system is still abused, Taylor would even consider requesting the alleged victim to report to the squad's headquarters carrying written proof of his injury.

Taylor suggests that a relevant clause should, in future, be inserted into contracts. He points out that, under Uefa regulations, he can insist that anyone attached to a foreign club be released "up to seven internationals a season. No such rule governs the release of players belonging to domestic clubs."

"This is the appropriate time to discuss the matter," he said. "I understand the pressure managers are under, but, if we are going to be serious about giving priority to the England team, we have to do something now. Otherwise, we are in danger of missing a great opportunity."

The players are those who are missing out. How can I make an assessment if they never turn up? I wouldn't say their careers are over but, because they are not gaining the necessary experience, they are effectively putting themselves out of contention."

No one was mentioned specifically by name but Paul Parker, though included in every squad this season, has been unable to appear in only the first fixture. It has also been reported that Neil Webb, the Manchester United colleague, was unaware of the ailment that caused him to be withdrawn on Sunday.

Taylor, by now accustomed to working "with one hand behind my back", conceded that he had been forced to make only two unforeseen changes to his line-up to play Czechoslovakia here tomorrow. By chance, they are probably Parker and Webb.

He will almost certainly retain a 3-4-3 formation featuring three central defenders, with Gary Mabbutt acting as the spare man in place of the injured Mark Wright. Paul Stewart will stand in for Webb in midfield.

David Rocastle is expected to fill the defensive position on the right flank and John Barnes will be restored to the unrestricted role behind the front two. Gary Lineker will lead the side only if he recovers from the viral infection that has reduced his voice to a croak.

Taylor has chosen to promote David Seaman but stressed that he is stepping only temporarily out of Chris Woods' shadow. Likewise, "nothing should be read too deeply" into the relegation to today's B team of Alan Shearer, who made such an impact on his debut against France last month.

On Sunday, he will represent Southampton in the zenith Data Systems Cup final at Wembley. "He has played 54 games on the trot," Taylor said. "And he has a big game coming up. I like to bear things in mind."

The statement might have been designed to stir the concern of his managerial colleagues at home.

**ENGLAND B:** N Martyn (Crystal Palace); E Bennett (Aston Villa), C Palmer (Sheffield Wednesday), R Jobson (Watford), J Dickens (West Ham United), A Sinton (Queen's Park Rangers), D Courtney (Luton), M United, M Thomas (Luton), M Liss (Southampton), A Shearer (Southampton), A Smith (Arsenal). Substitutes: C Woods (Sheffield Wednesday), G Lineker (Tottenham Hotspur), P Merson (Arsenal) or M Hartley (Rangers).

## Puerto Rico accused

BY PETER ROBINSON

JUST as the last World Cup ended in controversy, so the next jamboree, now officially in its infancy, has begun in similar fashion. The first of the S2 qualifying matches for the finals in 1994 kicked off in acrimony on Saturday and ended with bitter, if familiar, protests.

Even before the Dominican Republic had played the first leg of their CONCACAF pre-preliminary round tie with Puerto Rico, the arguments had begun. Puerto Rico were, the Dominican football authorities claimed, fielding ten ineligible players. The game was delayed for an hour while the debate raged. Eventually, the 80,000 spectators in the Juan Pablo Duarte Olympic stadium did see some football and, to fray tempers further, Puerto Rico won 2-1. All this just 48 hours before Fifa announced its choice of stadiums for the finals.

The second leg, Fifa decisions permitting, will be in San Juan on Saturday.

**AFRICAN CHAMPION'S CUP:** First round: First leg: Etala Phoenix (Swe), 1; Difa (Niger), 0. Second leg: Difa (Niger), 1; Etala Phoenix (Swe), 0.

**AFRICAN LEAGUE:** Deportivo Estadio, 1; Al Ahly (Egypt), 0. Third leg: Deportivo Estadio (Sudan), 1; Al Ahly (Egypt), 0. Final: Deportivo Estadio (Sudan), 1; Al Ahly (Egypt), 0.

**ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP:** First leg: Al Nasr (UAE), 1; Al Gharafa (Qatar), 0.

**ASIAN CUP:** First leg: South Korea (Korea), 1; Iraq (Iran), 0.

**AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE:** Deportivo Estadio, 1; Al Ahly (Egypt), 0. Third leg: Deportivo Estadio (Sudan), 1; Al Ahly (Egypt), 0. Final: Deportivo Estadio (Sudan), 1; Al Ahly (Egypt), 0.

**DANISH LEAGUE:** First leg: Copenhagen (Denmark), 1; AGF (Denmark), 0. Second leg: Copenhagen (Denmark), 1; AGF (Denmark), 0. Final: Copenhagen (Denmark), 1; AGF (Denmark), 0.

**ESPANOL LEAGUE:** First leg: Montevideo (Uruguay), 1; Club Atletico (Uruguay), 0. Second leg: Club Atletico (Uruguay), 1; Montevideo (Uruguay), 0. Final: Club Atletico (Uruguay), 1; Montevideo (Uruguay), 0.

**FRENCH LEAGUE:** Friday: Montpellier 2 (Div 1, 17), Zibor 54, Montpellier 1 (Div 2, 17), Zibor 54, Montpellier 2 (Div 1, 17), Zibor 54, Montpellier 1 (Div 2, 17), Zibor 54.

**GERMAN LEAGUE:** First leg: Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Bundesliga), 1; Borussia Mönchengladbach 1 (Bundesliga), 1. Second leg: Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Bundesliga), 1; Borussia Mönchengladbach 1 (Bundesliga), 1. Final: Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Bundesliga), 1; Borussia Mönchengladbach 1 (Bundesliga), 1.

**GRANADA LEAGUE:** First leg: Valencia 1 (Div 1), Valencia 2 (Div 2), Valencia 3 (Div 3), Valencia 4 (Div 4).

**HUNGARIAN LEAGUE:** First leg: Debrecen 1 (Div 1), Debrecen 2 (Div 2), Debrecen 3 (Div 3), Debrecen 4 (Div 4), Debrecen 5 (Div 5), Debrecen 6 (Div 6), Debrecen 7 (Div 7), Debrecen 8 (Div 8), Debrecen 9 (Div 9), Debrecen 10 (Div 10), Debrecen 11 (Div 11), Debrecen 12 (Div 12), Debrecen 13 (Div 13), Debrecen 14 (Div 14).

**ITALIAN LEAGUE:** First leg: Juventus 1 (Div 1), Juventus 2 (Div 2), Juventus 3 (Div 3), Juventus 4 (Div 4), Juventus 5 (Div 5), Juventus 6 (Div 6), Juventus 7 (Div 7), Juventus 8 (Div 8), Juventus 9 (Div 9), Juventus 10 (Div 10), Juventus 11 (Div 11), Juventus 12 (Div 12), Juventus 13 (Div 13), Juventus 14 (Div 14).

**ROMANIAN LEAGUE:** First leg: Steaua Bucharest 1 (Div 1), Steaua Bucharest 2 (Div 2), Steaua Bucharest 3 (Div 3), Steaua Bucharest 4 (Div 4), Steaua Bucharest 5 (Div 5), Steaua Bucharest 6 (Div 6), Steaua Bucharest 7 (Div 7), Steaua Bucharest 8 (Div 8), Steaua Bucharest 9 (Div 9), Steaua Bucharest 10 (Div 10), Steaua Bucharest 11 (Div 11), Steaua Bucharest 12 (Div 12), Steaua Bucharest 13 (Div 13), Steaua Bucharest 14 (Div 14), Steaua Bucharest 15 (Div 15), Steaua Bucharest 16 (Div 16), Steaua Bucharest 17 (Div 17), Steaua Bucharest 18 (Div 18), Steaua Bucharest 19 (Div 19), Steaua Bucharest 20 (Div 20), Steaua Bucharest 21 (Div 21), Steaua Bucharest 22 (Div 22), Steaua Bucharest 23 (Div 23).

**SWEDISH LEAGUE:** First leg: Djurgardens IF 1 (Allsvenskan), 1; Hammarby IF 1 (Allsvenskan), 1. Second leg: Djurgardens IF 1 (Allsvenskan), 1; Hammarby IF 1 (Allsvenskan), 1. Final: Djurgardens IF 1 (Allsvenskan), 1; Hammarby IF 1 (Allsvenskan), 1.

**THAILAND LEAGUE:** First leg: Bangkok Glass 1 (Div 1), Bangkok Glass 2 (Div 2), Bangkok Glass 3 (Div 3), Bangkok Glass 4 (Div 4), Bangkok Glass 5 (Div 5), Bangkok Glass 6 (Div 6), Bangkok Glass 7 (Div 7), Bangkok Glass 8 (Div 8), Bangkok Glass 9 (Div 9), Bangkok Glass 10 (Div 10), Bangkok Glass 11 (Div 11), Bangkok Glass 12 (Div 12), Bangkok Glass 13 (Div 13), Bangkok Glass 14 (Div 14), Bangkok Glass 15 (Div 15), Bangkok Glass 16 (Div 16), Bangkok Glass 17 (Div 17), Bangkok Glass 18 (Div 18), Bangkok Glass 19 (Div 19), Bangkok Glass 20 (Div 20), Bangkok Glass 21 (Div 21), Bangkok Glass 22 (Div 22), Bangkok Glass 23 (Div 23).

**THAILAND CUP:** First leg: Bangkok Glass 1 (Div 1), Bangkok Glass 2 (Div 2), Bangkok Glass 3 (Div 3), Bangkok Glass 4 (Div 4), Bangkok Glass 5 (Div 5), Bangkok Glass 6 (Div 6), Bangkok Glass 7 (Div 7), Bangkok Glass 8 (Div 8), Bangkok Glass 9 (Div 9), Bangkok Glass 10 (Div 10), Bangkok Glass 11 (Div 11), Bangkok Glass 12 (Div 12), Bangkok Glass 13 (Div 13), Bangkok Glass 14 (Div 14), Bangkok Glass 15 (Div 15), Bangkok Glass 16 (Div 16), Bangkok Glass 17 (Div 17), Bangkok Glass 18 (Div 18), Bangkok Glass 19 (Div 19), Bangkok Glass 20 (Div 20), Bangkok Glass 21 (Div 21), Bangkok Glass 22 (Div 22), Bangkok Glass 23 (Div 23).

**THAILAND CHAMPIONSHIP:** First leg: Bangkok Glass 1 (Div 1), Bangkok Glass 2 (Div 2), Bangkok Glass 3 (Div 3), Bangkok Glass 4 (Div 4), Bangkok Glass 5 (Div 5), Bangkok Glass 6 (Div 6), Bangkok Glass 7 (Div 7), Bangkok Glass 8 (Div 8), Bangkok Glass 9 (Div 9), Bangkok Glass 10 (Div 10), Bangkok Glass 11 (Div 11), Bangkok Glass 12 (Div 12), Bangkok Glass 13 (Div 13), Bangkok Glass 14 (Div 14), Bangkok Glass 15 (Div 15), Bangkok Glass 16 (Div 16), Bangkok Glass 17 (Div 17), Bangkok Glass 18 (Div 18), Bangkok Glass 19 (Div 19), Bangkok Glass 20 (Div 20), Bangkok Glass 21 (Div 21), Bangkok Glass 22 (Div 22), Bangkok Glass 23 (Div 23).

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TUESDAY MARCH 24 1992

Pakistan team running on adrenalin present Gooch's team with a tall order for World Cup final

## England prepare for the unpredictable

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN MELBOURNE

In A World Cup where the dread instincts of every country have been dominated by the weather, it is appropriate that England's opponents in the final here tomorrow are Pakistan, who would have been heading home long ago but for a timely downpour the last time the teams met.

Pakistan's woeful start to the tournament culminated in being bowled out by England for 74 in Adelaide, almost a month ago. When rain spared them certain defeat, they received the single point by which they squeezed Australia out of a semi-final place last week.

There is nothing woeful about Pakistan's cricket now. The length of the competition has allowed them time to revert from bungling ineptitude to the unpredictable brilliance which makes them such difficult opponents. They have won four consecutive games, two against the previously unbeaten New Zealand, to reach their first final more convincingly than England have reached their third.

Having thrillingly chased 263 to win their semi-final, Imran Khan's team will be high on adrenalin and self-belief. Such qualities should not be absent from the England dressing-room but there can be no accounting for the subconscious deflation of being handed their place in the final by a nonsensical rule rather than by winning it authentically.

Only the myopic could attach any blame to England for the way in which the World Cup, and cricket itself, was demeaned by the fiasco on Sunday. But now that the nightmare has been enacted, the palpably bad rule wrecking a semi-final, the private fear among administrators is

ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (capt), I T Botham, A J Stewart, G A Hick, N H Fairbrother, A J Lamb, C C Lewis, D A Reeve, P A J DeFreitas, R K Illingworth, G C Small, R A Smith, D R Pringle, P C R Tufnell.  
PAKISTAN (from): Imran Khan (capt), Ramiz Raja, Asim Sohail, Izzam-Ul-Haq, Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Jaz Ahmed, Wasim Akram, Moin Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Iqbal Sikander, Aqib Javed, Wasim Haider, Zahid Fazal.

David Miller, page 36  
John Woodcock, page 36  
Averages, page 36

that it could happen again tomorrow.

Not even the members of the World Cup committee, three each from Australia and New Zealand, now bother to argue the merits of their rule, and there is no possibility that it will pertain for the next World Cup, wherever it is staged. Equally, there was never a hope that it could be altered or abandoned once the competition was under way; the cup final has to take its chance.

At first glance little has been left to chance, the allowance of three days for the final a wise safeguard against even Melbourne's fickle weather. But nothing is quite as it seems in this tournament. Three days there may be, but there is no provision for the game being sensibly carried over if rain interferes, as would happen in England.

The cut-off point is after 25 overs of the second innings. If the game does not reach that mark, then all previous play is scrapped and a restart is made the following day. Should this happen twice, not impossible in Melbourne,

Prize within reach: Gooch, the England captain, and Imran, his opposite number, who meet in the World Cup final tomorrow

these two teams could conceivably share 248 overs before the final is decided.

If the 25-over mark is passed, the match is handed over to the weather gods and lawmakers. Heaven help the credibility of cricket in general, and Australian cricket in particular, should the shambles of Sunday be repeated.

This may seem far-fetched but bear in mind that Australia is now well into autumn and that 11 of the 38 matches so far have already required the application of the infamous rain rule.

Quite the most staggering statistic is that in eight of those 11 games, the team winning the toss chose to bat second, the most recent being South Africa on Sunday. While certain captains were doubtless sabotaged by unforeseeable weather, others South Africa's Kepler Wessels included, took calculated risks against the discriminatory regulation.

Graham Gooch was at pains, on Sunday night, to pass comment on the way this regulation has prevented captains applying normal cricketing logic to their decisions. As Imran is already on record as saying he would not dare gamble with the weather rule, we can take it that neither team will be keen to bowl first tomorrow.

When England do bat, their problems may emanate as much from their own players being off the boil as from the Pakistanis' diverse talents. Gooch and Ian Botham are averaging only in the mid-20s for the compen-

sation, Allan Lamb even lower. Lamb, indeed, could find himself out of the side if Robin Smith recovers from a pinched nerve in his back.

Alec Stewart's consistency earned him promotion to No. 3 on Sunday and that is how things should best stay. Graeme Hick, who has made three half-centuries in the tournament, is such a good player of spin that England will happily have him coming in against one of the main Pakistan danger men, the leg spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed.

With a bouncing, whirling action that is so reminiscent of Abdul Qadir, Mushtaq has already taken 13 wickets at

out), West Indies 221-0 (D L Haynes 93 not out, B C Lara 88 retired hurt). Hobart: Pakistan 254-4 (Aamer Sohail 114, Javed Miandad 89). Zimbabwe 201-7. Adelie: Australia 74, England 24-1 — no result.

Sydney: India 216 (S R Tendulkar 54 not out), Pakistan 173 (Aamer Sohail 62).

Brisbane: South Africa 211-7 (A C Hudspeth 54), Pakistan 173-5 (G A Gooch 58, I T Botham 53).

Ballarat: England 280-8 (N H Fairbrother 63, A J Stewart 59), Sri Lanka 174 (C C Lewis 43).

Melbourne: South Africa 234-6 (K C Lewis 61, D A Reeve 50), Hudson 172-5 (M J Treadaway 43).

England 226-7 (A J Stewart 77, N H Fairbrother 75 not out) — England's target revised to 225 in 41 overs.

Wellington: England 200-4 (G A Hick 59), New Zealand 173 not out.

Auckland (semi-final): England 252-6 (G A Hick 83), South Africa 232-6.

PAKISTAN: Melbourne 220-2 (Ramiz Raja 102, Javed Miandad 57 not

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Brisbane: South Africa 211-

ARTS  
Testing time  
for the Duke  
of Buccleuch's  
"Leonardo"

Imran  
flays  
the rail  
rule

# LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY MARCH 24 1992

PARENTS  
Can you get  
your child into  
the school of  
your choice?

## Lucky Jim and the slave trade

Hard work, low pay  
and no security:  
that is the life of the  
modern university  
teacher, according  
to a new book.  
Philip Thody begs  
to demur

I joined the academic profession on October 1, 1954, at the beginning of what is now seen as a golden age. If it didn't look like that to me at the time, this was mainly because my first job was a four-term, temporary assistant lectureship. On January 1, 1956 my appointment would end, and I would be out on my ear, looking for work in a profession where most appointments run from October to October.

This unusual arrangement had been set up to suit the convenience of the Professor of French, who was going on sabbatical by a slow boat to his native New Zealand. To compensate me for my inconvenience, I was to be paid £500 a year instead of the £450 at which assistant lecturers usually started, and I would have been prepared to settle for less. The Robbins Report was still an unseen gleam in somebody's eye, and five other clever and hungry young men, out of the 50 or so applicants, had been invited for interview for the job that I got.

My foolhardiness paid off. Another university proved ready to appoint me on January 1, 1956, as an ordinary assistant lecturer, and I began, slowly, to catch glimpses of the possible future gold. Life was not ideal. My new professor was not much of an improvement on the sun-worshipping vegetarian who had proudly informed me, as he embarked for Wellington, that he was not going to have to look at a book for more than a year.

Until the early 1960s some universities still practised the system, referred to on one occasion by the Oxford sociologist A H Halsey in his latest book *Decline of Donnish Dominion*, by which assistant lecturers were used as a cheap form of slave labour. They were appointed for three years, with no prospect of a permanent job, and replaced at the end of that time by somebody just as cheap, and just as vulnerable to the bullying whims of their professor.

Within a week of taking up my new appointment I realised that there were circumstances in which the Professor Welsh of Kingsley Amis's *Lucky Jim* could seem by comparison a generous, far-sighted, learned and intelligent man, eminently suited to the profession whose salary scales enabled him to draw a salary four times of the assistant lecturer.

\* *Decline of Donnish Dominion. The British Academic Professions in the Twentieth Century*. Clarendon Press, Oxford, £40.



When, in December 1956, my new professor and his wife descended to take tea with us (protocol forbade junior members of staff from inviting anyone as senior as him to dinner), the atmosphere was admirably summed up by the question which his wife asked him over the Marmite sandwiches: "Yes, my dear, I've always wondered, where do assistant lecturers go in winter time?"

The dawn came, of course, as I now realise that it was inevitable it would. Not only had I joined a profession that was about to expand, I also belonged to the group with the highest statistical chance of becoming a professor: male pupils from a state school, with a First from Oxford, Cambridge or London, and who published a number of books early in their career. I was also a member, as I realised later, of the demographically favoured group which was exactly the right age to benefit from the Robbins Report. Like a subaltern commissioned into the regular army in 1939, and blessed with a magic invulnerability to shells and bullets, I could not avoid becoming a professor.

I have enjoyed the experience, and tried to give better value for money than that clown I replaced in my first job and the paranoid who did everything he could to make my life a misery in my second.

If I recognise relatively little of my own experience in Professor Halsey's book, it is partly because I have been very lucky. I have had

very co-operative colleagues and extremely efficient secretaries. The combination has enabled me, by mixing an instinctive gift for delegation with an acquired guile in the arrangement of the timetable, to devote an average of three hours a day in term time either to research, to writing articles for newspapers, to making highly enjoyable trips to London for the civil service, or to visiting other universities to give lectures.

My situation is consequently very different from that of the female sociologist in one of the new universities who told Professor Halsey that she had to work "60-70 hours a week... to get any scholarly work done". I suspect that she has been hornswoggled into serving on too many asinine committees — the statutory female, unable to counteract the fact that the participation of women in academic life is, as Professor Halsey puts it, "patchy, passionate and peculiar".

But even if she does have to spend more than 30 hours a week dealing with the "increase in demands for student contact" and "increasing administrative demands", that can only be for 36 weeks a year. If she is in the right job, the rest of her time is not spent on "work" in the normal sense of the word. It is spent pursuing the activities which give her the greatest satisfaction and which will win her the approval of her peers.

It is this opportunity, especially enjoyed by academics in an arts faculty, of being paid to pursue their hobby, which makes me less

indignant than Professor Halsey thinks his readers ought to be that salaries have remained stationary in real terms, while those of other professions have "risen by a third since 1975", and that the average salary of a university teacher in Great Britain, which was 3.7

"If British industry had performed as well as the universities we should easily be as rich as the Japanese."

times that of a manual worker in 1928/9, had fallen to only 1.54 times in 1988/9.

Bully for the manual worker, I say. The people who create the wealth that enables Professor Halsey and me to write our books rarely give the impression of doing something interesting. And they never enjoy the priceless gift of being able to work, for the most part, when it suits them and not when their employer tells them.

I naturally think that my junior colleagues, especially in science, should get more money. But the fall in academic salaries, as Professor Halsey acknowledges, was inevitable from the moment that

the Robbins expansion took off and the 4 per cent annual growth rate in the British economy — on which its assumptions were based — did not take place. I can see no reason why I should be paid more than a schoolteacher. Unlike me, he works in difficult, often dangerous conditions, has much less time to pursue his hobby, and does a job of far more obvious use to society.

I do not, in saying this, seek to denigrate the universities. As Professor Halsey points out, they have served the country well. Trinity College, Cambridge, houses 28 Nobel Laureates compared with seven for the whole of Japan. If British industry, business and commerce had performed as well as the universities have over the past 40 years, we should easily be as rich as the Japanese. The universities also do quite a good job in promoting social mobility. Compared to eight other European countries with "the same class structure of occupations" we come top in the proportion of graduates coming from outside the middle classes.

France is bottom, which is one in the eye for Raymond Williams, who, as Professor Halsey puts it, "makes the acid point that those who could be called intellectuals in other countries are in Britain mostly brought up in a system of private education designed for a class which includes leading politicians, civil servants, company directors and lawyers". If you miss out the crack about private education (an allegation contradicted by the finding in *Decline of Donnish*) that professor Halsey's rather gloomy assess-

*Dominion* that you are statistically more likely to get a First if you come from a state rather than a public school), this is surely a good thing.

I explain the relative sanity which British academics show in their political opinions by the fact that they do not constitute a separate intelligentsia. It was, after all, a French sociologist,

Alain Touraine who, "after the May Events, sketched a view of the university as a polarised factor of intellectual production, owned, managed and controlled in the interests of the ruling class", and Professor Halsey's earlier reference to these events as a disaster which he considers, as Jeeves did the philosophy of Nietzsche, to be fundamentally unsound.

I am, as the Americans would say, chronologically challenged, and about to be put out to grass, and I feel that the system has done me proud. I'm glad that the differential in salary between arts professors and their non-professional colleagues has gone down to about 1.8:1, and that the power of the professoriate has been reduced.

Even if I had not been anxious to be as little like my first two professors as possible, the general change in relationships among colleagues would have compelled me to act in a more humane and considerate manner as well as to take my job seriously. The greater equality between members of the same profession is one of the several bonus points which Professor Halsey's rather gloomy assess-

ment fails to take into account. He also exaggerates when he argues that it is no longer the academics who decide what is taught in universities but their students, and no longer the scientists and scholars who choose their research topics but the civil servants and businessmen who provide the external funding.

This is not a change I have noticed myself, although I might have been more conscious of the threat to independent research if I had been at Salford or Aston in the early 1980s. It is true that we're being made to go modular, and cannot therefore make quite such exclusive claims on our students' time as we did in the past. But we still decide what is taught, and the changes in my own subject have not been dictated either by students or by civil servants. If I now do most of my teaching in French, and talk more about France and the Common Market than about Proust or symbolist poetry, that is because I think it is a good thing on academic grounds.

It is also what my students want.

Philip Thody is professor of French Literature at Leeds University

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TOMORROW

150 years of the Vienna Phil

stud and poor outlaw. I know that regret what troubles me now about my school years is not the cock-up I made of the European History paper but the failure of my feeble heart to make known my yearnings for Brenda Wareham.

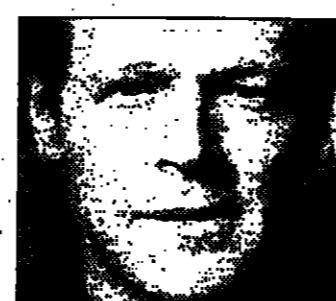
There are, however, two reasons why I should not wish to be 18 again and open my heart to that sonny lady bright of the Upper Sixth: first, it would mean that I should have to sit the European History paper again; and, second, it would mean that I should have to go eyeball-to-eyeball with Alan Clements, jealous guardian of all that pulchritude. Given the choice, now, between a double first or a tryst with Brenda Wareham, I would unhesitatingly take the date. If, however, that chance of bliss also required me to act like a brainless cock pheasant, I should have to decline and declare, with Chevalier, that I am ecstatically happy to be past it.

TOMORROW

Single Life: Lynne Truss

## Peaceful pleasures of being past it

MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon on the pea-brain scraps of youth



got off the ground and flapped in pursuit. Closing for the killer blow, he tried to aim a right cross, unseated himself in flight and nose-dived close to the ground. They both landed near to the fence, where they recomposed themselves with deep breaths and consoling worms, as if they were fearing "Thank God we don't have to do that again".

This scene of testosterone-driven absurdity reminded me of my own last and ridiculous fight, 22 years ago come Easter. I had gone to meet an old school friend at a local five-a-side tournament. Some local boys took against our appearance.

I was favouring an *Easy Rider* look of motorbike jacket and Peter Fonda shades: my friend tended more to the George Harrison style of long Afghan coat and grannie specs. The local boys barracked and jeered us into a rage and, at

length, their champion and I locked horns, running up and down the field for 20 yards aiming kicks and punches at each other. When we were too exhausted to continue, we fell apart, panting and bleeding and glad to agree that honour was satisfied. As we separated, an old man walked by, pushing his bike, wearing a flat cap, raincoat and bicycle clips. He looked at me through rheumy eyes and said very deliberately, "I seen girls fight better'n 'at".

Thank God I'll never have to do that again. Contrary to the legend that all young men love violence and are made for it, the truth is that they are, like the birds, fearfully incompetent in a fight. Posturing and menacing, flexing pecs and biceps — all that comes indeed, as second nature to adolescent boys as to fighting cocks; but the techniques of landing clean and damaging blows and escaping unharmed to his advantage is as foreign a study to most young men as Finnish. Speaking of which, we come to examinations.

anxiety which twisted me awake at night over exams was worthless and, further, that the degree to which they all lead has been perfectly useless. No potential employer has asked to see it. I could have claimed a double first in mathematics and nobody would ever have questioned it.

"Are you anxious?" I asked.

"No, I'm not anxious," she said. "I'm terrified with terror. This is my one and only chance if I make a mess of these exams, my life will be ruined."

Poor hen. What can we say to comfort her? A 19-year-old cannot know what a 45-year-old has discovered — that a life is not ruined by an examiner's ruling or a fouled-up interview but is a steady accumulation of biffs-ups, failures and mistaken moves, no single one of which is finally fatal. I could have told her that all the

CLOSING DATE: 31ST MARCH

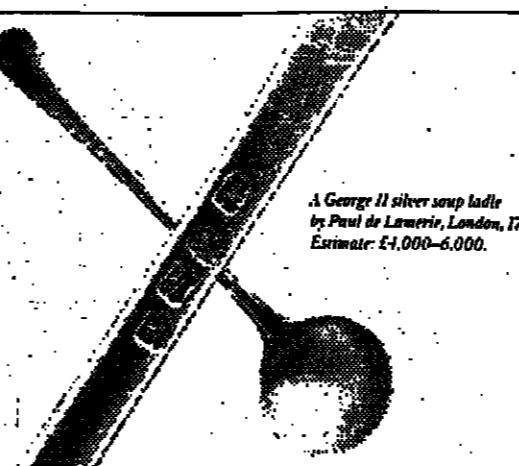
The June sale also features some exceptional Elizabethan spoons, Carolean tankards, Georgian candlesticks and coffee pots and other important pieces. We would welcome fine items for inclusion in this sale, the closing date for which is the end of this month. So, if you are considering selling, please contact Peter Waldron or Eileen Goodway of our Silver Department on 071-408 5104/5100, as soon as possible.

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A George II silver soup ladle  
by Paul de Lamerie, London, 1731.  
Estimate: £4,000-6,000.

LOOK

**BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET:** Tonight brings the world premiere of *Dark Horizon*, Oliver Hinsche's new ballet, designed for a cast of nine men. The narrative is set in a 19th-century English town where a man features Geline Semenova's new production of *Les Sylphides* and Hans van Manen's *Fairy Lamp*, *Five Fingers*. Birmingham Royal Theatre, Represby Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8519), 7.30pm.

**AHMAD JAMAL TRIO:** The American jazz pianist much favoured by Miles Davis has decided to return to the UK, influenced by the impact considerably, arrives in London for two dates: Jazz Café, 15a Parkway, London NW1 (071-384 4358), 8.30pm.

**THE JUDAS FREE:** Despite its title, Kamini Mathew's newest instalment is neither Biblical nor religious, but it is about a man betraying his best friend. Choreographed for 14 men and one woman from the Royal Ballet, *The Judas Tree* includes two murders, one rape and a hanging in the space of four scenes. The commission itself is by Brian Eno. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1069), 7.30pm.

**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA:** In the first of two concerts at the Barbican this week, the orchestra is joined by the distinguished pianist Dmitry Ashkenazy. The programme, conducted by Andrew Litton, includes Debussy's *La Mer*, Le Faune et le Destin, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2, and Beethoven's Symphony No 7. On Saturday the orchestra performs Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, under the direction of Sir Charles Groves. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-349 8891), 7.45pm.

**ANNA KARENINA:** Flair and imagination in Shostakovich's new opera, based on Tolstoy's novel. Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW5 (071-929 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm. 15th March.

**THE COTTON CLUB:** An impression of the Harlem nightspot high on energy, low on subtlety. Almeida Theatre, Upper Ground, SE1 (071-929 4368), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. 15th March.

**DANCING AT LUGHNASA:** Brian Friel's Award-winning memory-play set in Thirties Donegal. Garrick, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (071-929 4368), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 15th March.

**DEATH AND OUT IN PARIS AND LONDON:** Set in Paris, the man's wife is back for a change, staging and shoving vignettes of acting. Riverside Studios, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (071-929 4368), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 15th March.

**AN EVENING WITH GARY LINDNER:** Lindner's humour and look at the tankers of a woman married to a soccer nut. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (071-929 4401), Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm & 8.30pm. 15th March.

**GOOD ROCK TIME:** Set around a programme of swinging Fifties and Sixties pop classics. Great stuff. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue (071-839 4401). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm & 8.30pm. 15th March.

**A HARD HEART:** Architect Anna Meissner's story of her love to love, Becker's comedy and play. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 9th March.

**MEASURE FOR MEASURE:** Trevor Nunn's engrossing production. Donmar Warehouse, 101 Upper Ground, London SE1 (071-820 0411/829 6363), Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2pm. 21st March.

**NEW RELEASES**

**APOCALYPSE NOW (18):** Coppola's gory Vietnam odyssey, revived in 70mm. Mini Sheen in the special edition. Out now. £12.99. Carlton Home Video, Regent's Court, London SE1 (071-829 7025).

**LA BELLE NOISEUSE (15):** Jacques Rivette's hypnotic exploration of a painter and his model, struggling to come to terms with their love. Close to a masterpiece. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart, Jane Birkin. Chelles (01-351 3742) (3) Metro (071-437 0727) (3) Renov (071-437 8402).

**BUGSY (18):** Warren Beatty as Bugsy Siegel, the gangster who invited La Vieille, Stavro, Garry, etc, to work for him. Starring Annette Bening; director, Barry Levinson. Odeon, Leicester Square (0289 815862).

**J'EMBRASSÉ PAS (18):** Léonard-day Carelle becomes a film hooligan. Accomplished, but undying. With Manuel Blasco, Emmanuel Béart, Philippe Noiret; director, André Téchiné. Les Grands Studio (071-356 0031) (3) Metro (071-437 0727) (3) Renov (071-437 8402).

**BUGSY'S (18):** Warren Beatty as Bugsy Siegel, the gangster who invited La Vieille, Stavro, Garry, etc, to work for him. Starring Annette Bening; director, Barry Levinson. Odeon, Leicester Square (0289 815862).

**LATE FOR DINNER (PG-17):** Two ordinary Jews awake from a 25-year deep freeze Unashamedly comic whining from Brian W. Richar. With Bruce Campbell, Peter Cullen. MGM/Film Roman (071-370 2368) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0331) Odeon Kensington (071-9465 1466) (3) Metro (071-434 0331) Odeon Kensington (071-9465 1466).

**SHOOTING THROUGH (15):** Opulent, preposterous, overblown and Motor City Griffith spring for the US Government in Berlin. Stars Michael

### TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Keri Knight

**LONDON FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA:** The "Birthday Honours" series continues with a concert celebrating the birth of John Adams. Set for 307 years, the orchestra plays his "Grandioso Concerto, Concerto in D for Oboe and Violin, Cantata No 79 "Information", Suite No 1 in C, and slipping into the next generation, Symphony in E Flat by C.P.E. Bach, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, London SE1 (071-823 8500), 7.45pm.

**WILLARD WHITE:** The popular bass cantor gives a recital of a recital of songs by Brahms, Puccini, Copland (John American Songs), Mozart and Verdi, accompanied by pianist Roger Vignoles. St John's Smith Square, London SW1 (071-821 7051), 7.30pm.

**BRICE MARDEN - PRINTS:** Emerging in New York in 1960s, Marden's prints have changed little since then. At the beginning of his career, but he soon moved to a more severe, minimalist style, which was gradually modified under the influence of classical architecture, and finally reached the loose, calligraphic quality of his first phase. His prints, many of the finest in black and white, parallel his paintings, and collectively make up one of the most successful series of graphic work in recent American art. Octagon Theatre, Hendon, London NW3 (081 22894), 7.30pm.

**ROLLEROASTER:** Lovers of the Jesus and Mary Chain's grungy guitars and shattered dreams will be pleased to find the band joined by the blue-minded noise terrorists, My Bloody Valentine, Dinosaur Jr and Blur. Apollo, Arundel Green, Manchester (061-273 3775), 8.30pm.

**DOUBLETAKE:** The general subject of this large International show is "Architecture and Memory in Art". Even the critic Aldo Rossi is renowned for his writings on collective memory in architecture, and the 22 artists included are all very conscious of living on the shoulders of their predecessors. Works are inside the Heyward and scattered around in the open; the media are sometimes improbable. Hayward Gallery, 7 Burlington Gardens, London W1 (071-823 8500), 7.45pm.

**TALKS IN LONDON:** Lou Reed, who is currently playing at the Hammerstein Odeon, drops in at the National to give a platform talk on his work; meanwhile at Birkbeck College, Gredice Pollock delivers a lecture entitled "Avant-Garde Architecture: From the Bauhaus to Bernard Tschumi". At Tate, art historian and critic Sarah O'Brien gives a luncheon talk on William Blake. National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (071-823 2252), 6pm. Blacked House, University of East Anglia, Norwich, Master Street, WC1 (071-822 6222), 6pm. Tate Gallery (071-821 7123), 1pm.

**OPERA BD:** The company moves to Yeovil this week with its adequate new staging of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, directed by Stephen Medcalf, designed by Anne Marston. Geoxius (0954 22894), 7.30pm.

**ROLLEROASTER:** Lovers of the Jesus and Mary Chain's grungy guitars and shattered dreams will be pleased to find the band joined by the blue-minded noise terrorists, My Bloody Valentine, Dinosaur Jr and Blur. Apollo, Arundel Green, Manchester (061-273 3775), 8.30pm.

**MOBY DICK:** A girl's school puts on a fund-raising show, Tony Monopoly and Captain Ahola, dressed as musicals. Piccadilly, Denmark Street, W1 (071-821 8811). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 15th March.

**THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA:** Alfred Molina and Alan Alda play the cantors of Latin America, play on the effects of sexual repression. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1 (071-929 2222), Tonight, 7.30pm. 16th March.

**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA:** Gwyneth Jones and the Royal Opera House team up to bring the musical to life once again. Orpheum, Whitechapel, SW1 (071-829 1000). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 8pm. 15th March.

**THE POCKET DREAM:** Foolish burlesque of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with Mike McShane and Sandy Toksvig. Collected from only one of the three parts. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1 (071-829 2222), Tonight, 7.30pm. 16th March.

**THE RECRUITING OFFICER:** Nicholas Hytner's good-natured production, rather too good to be true to the play's darker content. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1 (071-829 2222), Tonight, 7.30pm. 16th March.

**SOME LIKE IT HOT:** But what is hot is lukewarm. Tommy Steele in poor musical version of *Holiday Inn*. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1 (071-829 2222), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm. 16th March.

**GOD ROLL:** The Duke of Wellington terrifies Nick Nolte and his wife. Martin Scorsese's ferocious, unpleasant remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Jessica Lange, Juliette Lewis. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-732 3332).

**CINEMA GUIDE**

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol **□** on release across the country

**Douglas:** director, David Seltzer. Barbiere (071-829 8891) MGM/Film Roman (071-829 8891) MGM/Film Roman (071-829 8891) Odeon West End (0429 515457).

**TILL THERE WAS YOU (PG-12):** Romantic drama with enticing stars. With Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Diane Keaton, Debra Winger, Olympia Dukakis. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1 (071-929 2222), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm. 16th March.

**CURRENT:** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**FOR DINNER (PG-17):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**FRIDAY NIGHT (PG-17):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**BLACK ROBE (15):** Seventeenth-century Jesuit (Lorraine Bracco) tries to convert Indians in northern Quebec. Intelligent epic from Brian Moore. Director, Bruce Beresford. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1 (071-929 2222), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm. 16th March.

**CAFE PODIGRE (15):** Robert De Niro terrifies Nick Nolte and his wife. Martin Scorsese's ferocious, unpleasant remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Jessica Lange, Juliette Lewis. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-732 3332).

**LIGHT SLEEPER (15):** Lugubrious elegy to the Eighties drug scene from writer/director John Sayles, expertly served by Willem Dafoe as a loner thumbing towards redemption. With Susan Sarandon. Curzon West End (071-499 4805).

**FRIDAY NIGHT TACOMA (12):** Heart-wrenching drama from Brian Moore. Director, Bruce Beresford. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1 (071-929 2222), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm. 16th March.

**CAFE PODIGRE (15):** Robert De Niro terrifies Nick Nolte and his wife. Martin Scorsese's ferocious, unpleasant remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Jessica Lange, Juliette Lewis. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-732 3332).

**LAST WEEKEND (12C):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**DEATH & THE MAIDEN (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**THE SMASH HIT (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**GRAND MUSICAL (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**FRANCES (A) (12):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**THE POPE AND THE WITCH (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**OLIVER (PG-17):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**THE SPINE CHILLER (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**THE REAL THIRL (5-12):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**DEAR LUCILLE (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**FORBIDDEN PLANET (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**THE MUSICAL (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**RETURN TO THE LAND OF INTERNATIONAL TOUR (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**WITH FULL U.S. COMPANY (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**SEASON ONLY (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**BIG DISASTERS (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**THE DIVINE MADNESS (15):** *Divine Madness* (Giselle)

**THE DIVINE**

# Looking for Leonardo's autograph

One of these paintings from the studio of Leonardo da Vinci may be the work of the master himself.

**Richard Cork scans the evidence**

**W**hile remorseless scientific investigation continues to whittle away at the number of Rembrandt's authentic paintings, Leonardo da Vinci's oeuvre is about to undergo a dramatic expansion. The vicissitudes of time, combined with Leonardo's notorious reluctance to complete ambitious projects, have left only a dozen or so paintings confidently regarded as his handiwork. Now, however, the leading Leonardo authority, Martin Kemp, is proposing to add another image to this select group of pictures. Or rather, he has arranged a gladiatorial combat between two rival paintings. Belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch and a private collector in New York respectively, both versions have impressive claims to be considered a Leonardo original called the *Madonna of the Yarnwinder*.

The contestants will be brought together on May 15 at the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh, backed up by a scholarly catalogue from Professor Kemp. If one of them emerges as a clear winner, its owner will have good reason to feel gratified. For both paintings have generally been regarded as nothing more than the best surviving copies of a lost original. In his classic book on Leonardo, Kenneth Clark only accorded them a brief footnote. While acknowledging that one authority claimed the Buccleuch version as authentic, Clark declared that it "seems to be a fine studio replica".

When Kemp published his prize-winning study of Leonardo in 1981, he concurred. "I considered the Buccleuch painting to be a high-quality studio work with some participation by Leonardo," he says. The principal value of both versions appeared to lie in the evidence they provided of what the vanished original looked like. Over the past decade, though, Kemp has gradually changed his mind. "I'm now convinced", he explains, "that there is a type of small devotional picture which, while not

as incomparably fine as the *Mona Lisa*, deserves to be regarded as a Leonardo. And since I have altered my view about what constitutes a genuine Leonardo, the prospects for finding the original *Yarnwinder* painting have changed as well."

Kemp's willingness to revise his opinion of the two versions stems, in part, from his awareness of the painting's history. By the beginning of the 16th century, when Leonardo started work on the *Yarnwinder* composition, leading collectors of the day vied for his work. Among the most powerful was the formidable Isabella d'Este, the Marchioness of Mantua. She tried to procure a painting of the Christ Child from Leonardo, "made with that air of sweetness and suavity which is peculiar to you to the highest degree". She met with no more success than her influential rivals, so Florimond Robertet, secretary to Louis XII of France, was lucky indeed to obtain the *Madonna of the Yarnwinder* from Leonardo.

We know about this surprising commission from letters written to the thwarted Isabella by Fra Pietro da Novellara, head of the Carmelites in Florence. On April 14, 1501, he reported that "the little picture" which Leonardo was painting for Robertet was "of a Madonna seated as if she were about to spin yarn. The Child has... grasped the yarnwinder and gazes attentively at the four spokes that are in the form of a cross. As if desirous of the cross, he smiles and holds it firm, and is unwilling to yield it to his mother, who seems to want to take it away from him."

Christ's impulsive movement, hanging across the picture-space in a diagonal thrust, provides the composition with its daring sense of energy. But his eagerness to clasp the yarnwinder also prophesies Christ's death on the cross. Hence the Madonna's attempt to shield his body with her left hand, while she stretches out her other hand in a gesture of alarm. The mother wants to protect her son

"Robertet wouldn't have got

from his premonition of death, and yet the melancholy in the Madonna's face seems to acknowledge the inevitability of the crucifixion.

Hovering with immense subtlety between affection and anxiety, playfulness and tragedy, the *Madonna of the Yarnwinder* is one of Leonardo's most original inventions. The painting became enormously popular, spawning a prodigious array of copies and adaptations throughout Europe. Its fame led historians to assume that the picture produced for Robertet was remarkably unwilling to part with the paintings he had executed entirely with his own hand. The *Mona Lisa*, the Virgin, Child, St Anne and a

Lamb and the lost *Leda and the Swan*, are among his greatest achievements, remained in the artist's possession throughout his life.

**S**o which of the two competing versions is the one Robertet received around 1506? In terms of provenance, the Buccleuch picture scores higher marks. New research has established that the painting was owned in the early 18th century by the Duc de Tallard, and Robertet was once reported working with a duke of that name. The condition of the Buccleuch picture is also finer. Apart from surface dirt, yellowed varnish and cracking, the painting is in an excellent

state. Moreover, it is on the original panel, whereas the New York version may at some stage have been transferred to canvas.

The latter painting also suffers from discoloured retouchings, but remains an attractive painting nevertheless. The distant range of hazy blue mountains is closely akin to the mysterious landscape in the *Mona Lisa*. No such romantic setting has been bestowed on the Buccleuch version, where the promontories thrusting into the sea are, according to Kemp, "difficult to reconcile with Leonardo's own gifts".

On the other hand, Kemp is convinced that the extraordinarily accurate limestone rocks

end Kemp feels that the Buccleuch version is the one sent to Robertet. Despite the signs of studio participation, particularly in the seascape with its unconvincing island, the painting accords better with Leonardo's work in the early years of the 16th century. The New York picture is more likely to be a late product of the master's studio, executed directly under his control and perhaps with his participation in the figure group.

When the two versions are unveiled in Edinburgh, arguments will doubtless rage over their relative merits. Whatever the final outcome of the battle, though, the Buccleuch family's love of their painting is unlikely to alter.



Two versions of Leonardo da Vinci's *Madonna of the Yarnwinder*: from the collection of the Duke of Buccleuch (left) and from a private collection in New York

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

### Brahms, briskly

**S**ince a performance which I heard Sergiu Celibidache conduct a few years ago, I have to confess a bias against Brahms's Requiem, which on that occasion seemed to drag on for a lifetime. But I am open to persuasion, and the performance by the London Classical Players that Roger Norrington conducted as the focus and climax of The Brahms Experience at the weekend instantly dispelled my misgivings.

In many respects, it was revolutionary. For one thing, the chorus (the Schola Chor, whose attack, blend and discipline was exemplary) stood at the front, basses and soprano on the extreme left, tenors and alto opposite thus creating a clarifying polyphonal effect and a more immediate, better balanced sound. For another, Norrington was happy, as many historically-aware conductors sometimes are, not to allow the orchestra its full palette of colour — sinewy oboes, rasping stopped horns, low contrabassoon and bassoons resounding with loud, impious raspberries.

Norrington refused to be weighed down by the sternness others see in the work, though even he could not make some of the heavier movements easily digestible (the final "Selig sind die Toten", for example). His speeds were lively and his overview was decidedly dramatic rather than self-indulgent, yet without a hint of superficiality. "Denn

alles Fleisch" has surely never sounded more terrifying, even when sung by choral forces five times as great. Only the poorly tuned singing of the soprano, Lynne Dawson, spoilt things; the baritone, Olaf Bar, was at his resonant, magnificient best.

In contrast to previous "Experiences", some of the preparatory events seemed decidedly contrived; nevertheless it was pleasing to hear Norrington read poetry by Matthew Arnold and Arthur Hugh Clough. The musical preparation included a short, elegant recital of songs tied in with the Requiem and mostly by Brahms, that Bar gave with John Toll at the fortepiano, and an equally brief chamber recital of movements from the First Cello Sonata and the Horn Trio in which Melvyn Tan at the fortepiano, presented impressive late-Romantic credentials.

Saturday night's concert was of pieces by Schütz, Gabrieli, Palestrina (a wonderfully intense reading by the Schütz Choir of the Kyrie from Missa Papae Marcelli), Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Brahms. It intelligently showed influences on and connections with the Requiem. Talks and discussions further helped with context. However, there was a hideously scratchy, unsympathetic performance in the first movement from the Op 34 Quintet (strings-only version).

STEPHEN PETTIT

## RADIO REVIEW

### Rather protocol than politicians

**I**f the BBC's Court correspondent, Paul Reynolds, doesn't pick up an OBE for his services to royal relationships, he should certainly get something from the RSPB — that's the society for listeners who are Really Sick of Political Broadcasts, of course.

For 12 glorious hours on Thursday, Reynolds managed to nudge the speechifying and mud-slinging down the day's news order, although listening to James Naughtie teasing the tale of royal revenge out of him on *The World as One* was hilarious. The lugubrious Reynolds seemed to have come from The Mall unsure what to do with the heavily marked card that must have been in the pocket next to his pounding heart. Had the Queen really said those things about the fragment Duchess of York? And were they meant for Reynolds's ears only, or had he been primed to let slip the corgis of war on network radio?

Naughtie was in no doubt. Court correspondents, well-versed in the genteel equivocations of Palace briefings, are perhaps unprepared for



Dirk Bogarde: perfect as one of Pinter's old men

kumbus, stealing America out from under its residents while Frances Barber, as Queen Isabella, sat in Spain screeching for gold.

But better was to come, on Radio 3 last Sunday, in a perfect production of Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land*. Dirk Bogarde and Michael Hordern were the two old men meeting by chance or otherwise on Hampstead Heath, with Keith Allen and Bernard Hill as Hordern's menacing

henchmen. The play was described variously as enigmatic and impenetrable when it opened in 1975, and it says a lot for our moderated attitudes to homosexuality that it now seems neither of those things. Janet Whittaker's production was a masterpiece in good acting and storytelling: 97 minutes of joy, without a tax hike or royal indiscretion to be found.

PATRICK STODDART

**H**e was tough, lean, mean. A man among men. Real men; men you could rely upon, should the defence of an oak tree require the trunk of an oak tree to be hauled 28 miles across rough terrain, barefoot, in the dark, after 12 days of living on water.

"Okay, listen in," he barked at three dozen soldiers. He was a paratrooper officer; they were about to embark on a 15-day course of gruesomely strenuous physical tests that would make or break them (rather literally, if transposed as paratroopers — the hard men of the British Army). The documentary *P Company*, shown last night in Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* series, followed the action.

And what action! There was the droll game in which a steep hill 20 times carrying a 43lb knapsack. Or the jolly "log race" — not yet an Olympic event, perhaps because the

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Proof of valour but not of point

fatality rate might be unacceptable on television. This involved teams lugging a giant log across country while instructors screamed obscene exhortations.

For light relief came gymnastic exercises ("Bend your shagging knees") bellowed a sergeant, and then an amusing event in which candidates had to walk along a narrow girder high above the ground.

"Nothing to be afraid of up there; it's only the height of a five-storey building," shouted the instructor at a trembling soldier showing signs of the worst disease known to man — macho-man in the jargon of the trade, "no bottle".

RICHARD MORRISON

One decided to take part in the log race despite a serious injury: missing an event indicates a "wrong attitude". "What he doesn't know," said the commentary, "is that he has already failed."

*Cutting Edge* superbly conveyed the culture of "beyond the limit" physical endurance, without ever posing the crucial question: why? Is this punishing routine necessary in military terms? Recent Falklands documentaries have tended to suggest that paratroop dering-do — lightning hikes into enemy country — are the modern equivalent of the Charge of The Light Brigade: astonishingly brave feats of arms, but strategically insignificant in our age of smart weapons. The course separates the men from the boys, but to what purpose? This programme offered blood, sweat, toil and tears, but precious little context.

RICHARD MORRISON

## ARTS BRIEF

### Rites of spring

Ronald Stevenson's Violin Concerto at the Royal Concert Hall on May 21.

#### Cornish cream

MICHAEL TOOBY, the 35-year-old keeper of Sheffield's Mappin Art Gallery, is to be the first keeper of the Tate Gallery of St Ives. The new gallery is being built by Cornwall County Council and will show the 20th century painting and sculpture in the Tate's St Ives collection.

#### Last chance . . .

SOME critics thought Alan Bennett's monologues, *Talking Heads*, better on television than on stage. But here is the author in the flesh, and Patricia Routledge in the roles of two desolate loners. The final performance is at the Comedy (071-867 1045) on Saturday.

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# The school of whose choice?

When children are turned down for a school, parents are forced to take a lesson in appeals procedures, says Davina Lloyd

**A**t just this point in the academic year parents are coming up to a bridge in their children's education. Throughout the land they are receiving notification of the new schools to which their children have been allocated: which primary schools in the case of five-year-olds and rising fives, and which secondary schools for 11-pluses.

Most satisfied with the placement will be preparing their children to cross the bridge to the next stage of their school careers. For others the news will present instead a yawning chasm in their hopes and expectations. Their child has not been accepted at the school of their choice.

They thought they had a choice. What gave them this idea was Section 6 of the 1980 Education Act. This was reiterated in last year's Parents' Charter: "You have the right to say which school you prefer." Except . . .

They do not have the right to choose a school, only to express a preference. There follows the proviso in the Parents' Charter: "You have the right to a place in the school you want unless it is full to capacity with pupils who have a stronger claim."

Parents believing that they have a stronger claim to a place in a particular school discover that a wide gap exists between their reasons for selecting one school and the criteria applied by the local education authority (LEA) that made the selection.

Alexander Ford, whose son Alexander is now 11, chose a school outside the west. London borough of Ealing where they live. Their chosen school, Chiswick High School in the neighbouring borough of Hounslow, is exactly the same distance from their home as Acton High School, the alternative in-borough choice.

"We were told last September that Ealing, which had previously operated a three-tier system (first, middle and secondary schools) had changed its policy and we could select a secondary school for Alex to start at next September," Mrs Ford says.

"What we didn't know was that Ealing had only 'applied' for the change; it had not been agreed by the education department.

"We knew we could choose to go out of borough, but it wasn't made easy. Parents were supposed to send in applications for Hounslow schools before the open days for visiting and assessing Ealing schools. We visited seven schools, in and out of borough, and put Chiswick High first on our list of four choices.

"Right up to January there was no official news. Then I heard that the DES had deferred their decision, and eventually in February we were told that Ealing 11-year-olds would not be starting second-



Alexander Ford of Chiswick at Southfield school, in Ealing borough: he could not move to Chiswick High School because he lives on the wrong side of the boundary

ary school in September after all. "We have been very satisfied with Southfield, the school where Alex is now, but we felt as he'd be 12 by September, it was time for him to move on. It became even more crucial to know whether he'd been accepted out of borough."

Then phone calls later, she learnt that he had not. Chiswick is a popular school and was oversubscribed. The Fords had been turned down because their house was just over the borough boundary line . . .

"We feel very angry," Mrs Ford says. "Alex was born in Chiswick, we live in Chiswick and always expected that he'd go to Chiswick High. I just don't know how to tell my son he hasn't got a place in the school he wanted to go to."

The Fords are about to exercise their next right, the right to appeal against the local education authority's decision. "We feel cheated about the business of choice. We are anxious about having to appeal, but determined to do it."

The most recently-available figures show that in 1988/9 there were 15,000 appeals nationwide and 40 per cent were successful — still leaving six out of ten unhappy families.

Robert and Sue Brown, from

Even those who have won their case have not all been satisfied with the appeals process. One such couple in the West Country, whose son was eventually admitted to their chosen school, are reluctant to be named in case it should prejudice the case for their second child, for whom they feel they will have to repeat the process.

"At every stage we felt discouraged from proceeding further. We had to sit at a large table with seven people, including three on the appeal committee, the county solicitor and a clerk. The whole business was intimidating. Though we won, it was awful to be next to the head and feel we were foisting our son into her school."

What parents consider valid reasons for their choice may be at odds with the admissions criteria which bind LEAs. "Sibling connection" is a prime reason for admission by local education authorities. "We're doing everything we can," said one couple, "but we can't suddenly produce an older brother or sister already at the school."

"Proximity" is another criterion for admission, though plenty of parents are prepared to "bus" their children to their chosen school. Robert and Sue Brown, from

Bolton, moved house to be near their chosen primary school, St Thomas' Chequerbent, in Westhoughton. "Our house was about 100 yards from the school, and we put Sally's name down a year before she was due to start school. We thought we were bound to get her in," Mr Brown says.

Stuart Jackson, the admissions officer for Bolton, who accompanied the Browns to their appeal,

often finds himself sitting on the other side of the table when dealing with appeals about schools in the state sector. "Schools in Bolton don't operate in catchment areas and we are fortunate, 98 per cent of our parents get their first choice of secondary school."

"Primary-school admissions are arranged by head teachers, and locally they get together to sort out placements to try to avoid parents having to go to appeal."

He sometimes has to deal with angry governing bodies when the appeals committee has ruled in favour of the parents and they're forced to take children over their "standard number" (the agreed number of children in each year group). The admission authority has to prove at an appeal that admitting a child would prejudice efficient education at the school; allowing an appeal could make a large class even larger.

Last month Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said he would be considering changes in allocar-

Eatock, it's a brilliant school. We've no quarrel with the education authority, but I still think the whole procedure was a sham."

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He sometimes has

# Summit of a dangerous career

**It takes a special kind of courage to earn your living skiing down a 65 degree slope.**  
**Adam Baines on the latest exploit of extreme skier Pierre Tardivel**

**O**n June 26, 1492, one hundred and two days before Columbus discovered a new continent, seven of the most distinguished men in France set out to discover a new dimension. Three months before Ferdinand and Isabella's colours flew over America, Charles VIII ordered that a team of climbers scale the Mont Aiguille, a near-vertical peak in south-eastern France. So was mountaineering born.

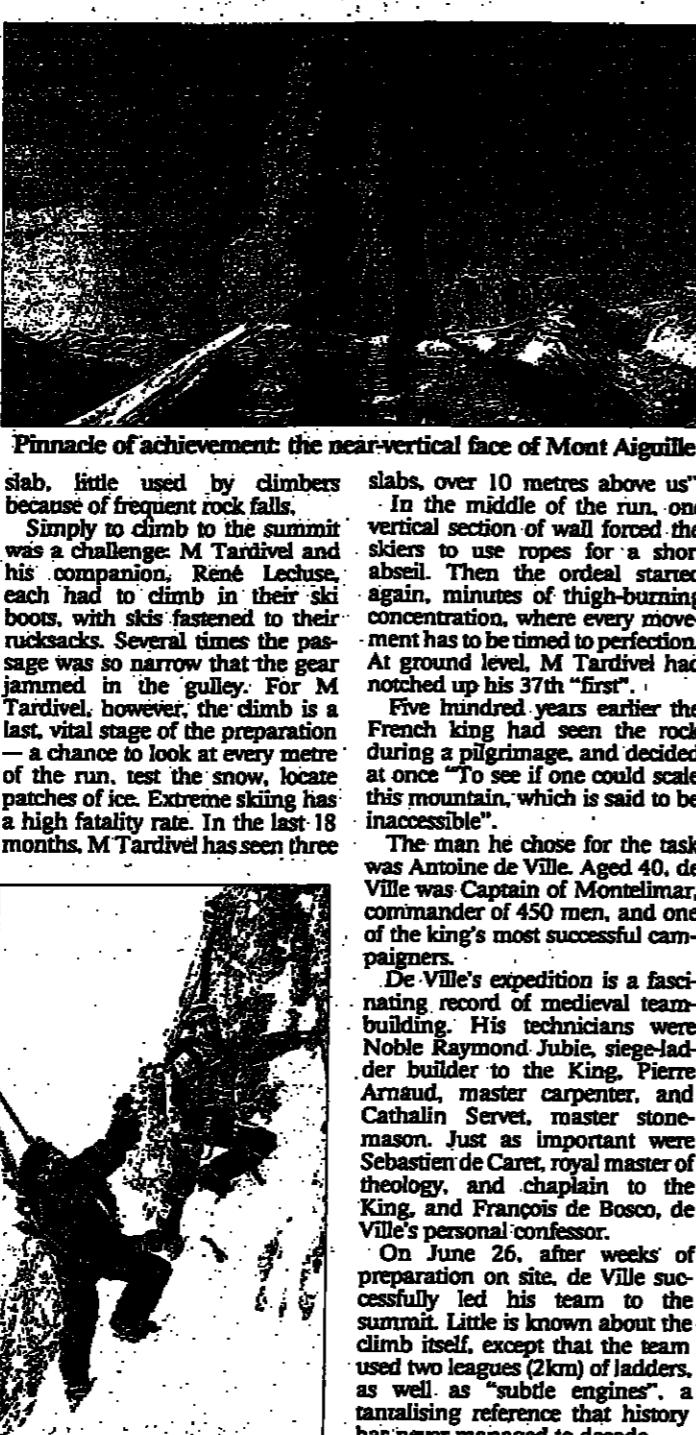
Five hundred years later, a new challenge hung over the same piece of rock. On January 27 this year Pierre Tardivel, the only man capable of skiing a 65 degree slope, climbed to the summit to see if the walls of this fortress were skiable.

The Mont Aiguille — the birthplace of alpine sports, and a yardstick for human skill and courage for half a millennium, is a rock 40km from Grenoble. At 2,086m, it is a relative beginner by Alpine standards. What makes the peak unique is that in its final 350m, the Mont Aiguille (Needle Mountain) is the solitary survivor of a vast limestone plateau that once joined it to the surrounding peaks. For something over 50 million years it has stood alone, hiding behind almost a quarter of a mile of vertical fortifications.

M Tardivel announced he could ski the peak from the summit. Not an idle boast, but a professional evaluation. M Tardivel, 28, has skied 36 slopes that had never seen a ski, and last year made the first attempt to ski Everest — he had to give up when he discovered he had frostbite in his toes.

He makes a living from carrying his sponsors' colours down slopes that would kill any other skier. He demonstrates their equipment at the limit, and in return they finance his passion: extreme skiing. As in "extremely dangerous". Skiing 65 degree slopes (35 degrees steeper than the most aggressive black run) M Tardivel will only ever make one mistake in his career.

Using aerial photos of the peak, M Tardivel plotted a meticulous route through the Tubularia — a precipitous gully folded inside the



Pinnacle of achievement: the near-vertical face of Mont Aiguille

slab, little used by climbers because of frequent rock falls.

Simply to climb to the summit was a challenge: M Tardivel and his companion, René Lecluse, each had to climb in their ski boots, with skins fastened to their rucksacks. Several times the passage was so narrow that the gear jammed in the gully. For M Tardivel, however, the climb is a last, vital stage of the preparation — a chance to look at every metre of the run, test the snow, locate patches of ice. Extreme skiing has a high fatality rate. In the last 18 months, M Tardivel has seen three



Pierre Tardivel (right) and René Lecluse on the ascent

colleagues killed in accidents on the mountains. Attention to detail is what keeps him alive.

The skiers reached the summit at noon, but waited for several hours, to let the sun soften icy patches of snow on the west face. The first move was a jump past an overhanging ledge on the summit — falling straight into the gully.

Skiing slopes at up to 55 degrees, in passages only 2-3 metres wide, M Tardivel describes as "skiing inside the guts of the mountain — a narrow gorge hidden between dark, twisting

slabs, over 10 metres above us". In the middle of the run, one vertical section of wall forced the skiers to use ropes for a short abseil. Then the ordeal started again, minutes of thigh-burning concentration, where every movement has to be timed to perfection. At ground level, M Tardivel had notched up his 37th "first".

Five hundred years earlier the French king had seen the rock during a pilgrimage and decided at once "To see if one could scale this mountain, which is said to be inaccessible".

The man he chose for the task was Antoine de Ville. Aged 40, de Ville was Captain of Montelimar, commander of 450 men, and one of the king's most successful campaigners.

De Ville's expedition is a fascinating record of medieval team-building. His technicians were Noble Raymond Jubie, siege-ladder builder to the King, Pierre Arnould, master carpenter, and Cathalain Servet, master stonemason. Just as important were Sébastien de Caret, royal master of theology, and chaplain to the King, and François de Bosco, de Ville's personal confessor.

On June 26, after weeks of preparation on site, de Ville successfully led his team to the summit. Little is known about the climb itself, except that the team used two leagues (2km) of ladders, as well as "subtle engines", a tantalising reference that history has never managed to decode.

Even the experience of the climb went largely unrecorded, leaving us only with de Ville's chilly synopsis: "The most horrible and terrifying passage that I, or my companions, have ever seen."

History was in the making — the known world had been extended by a couple of acres, and for the first picture of the new territory we have de Ville's letter to the parliament at Grenoble: "The width of a bow-shot, covered with a fine meadow... and the most beautiful place ever seen." De Ville and his team spent a week on the peak, until the clerk from Grenoble arrived to ratify the expedition.

The clerk satisfied himself with the view from the bottom. Even the experience of the climb went largely unrecorded, leaving us only with de Ville's chilly synopsis: "The most horrible and terrifying passage that I, or my companions, have ever seen."



No room for mistakes: M Tardivel and companion make their historic descent of one of the world's most challenging slopes

For almost 350 years the Mont Aiguille was left in peace until, in 1834, a young Frenchman climbed to the summit. There he found blackened rocks and debris, presumably the untouched remains of de Ville's expedition.

Elsewhere in the Alps, the vertical was fast becoming public property. In Chamonix, a purse was offered to the first man to climb Mont Blanc. The prize was carried away in 1786 by Accard and Balmat. From then on, the peaks fell like ninepins: the Jungfrau, 1812; the Eiger, 1865.

The Mont Aiguille, although

not a major peak, maintained its pioneering role in alpinism. In 1878 the rock saw the world's first "via ferrata" a steel cable installed by the Club Alpin Français.

With the bizarre logic of climbing, this established route allowed climbers to look for new, more risky passages.

Today, a climbing map of the peak looks like a ball of string — hundreds of routes, each calibrated to an exact degree of difficulty. The Mont Aiguille has seen free-climbing, speed climbing, climbing

ers who go up on a carabiner (part of a harness which holds the climber to the rope) and come down on a paraglider canopy, but in the last 50 years, two exploits stand out even by the remarkable standards of the rock.

One is M Tardivel's ski descent: the other took place in 1957, when Henri Giraud decided to set a new standard in aeronautics: "I chose the Mont Aiguille, because it represented an extreme challenge.

I wanted to prove that you can land a plane with precision of a bird on a branch. The plane's landing speed was 100kmh, with a maximum distance of 100m — or you're dead!"

Giraud's skills as a pilot were up to the challenge, and on August 27, he brought the aircraft to a halt on the summit, a stunt he was to repeat 53 times over the years.

M Tardivel, while he survives, can make a living as an extreme sportsman, because the public, like Charles VIII, loves to see a man go where none has gone before. This September M Tardivel returns to Everest, and the cameras will be watching, to see the known world grow again.

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An Afrikaner says her tribe is seldom given the benefit of the doubt, whatever they do

## Taking the bad guy out of the Boer

am convinced that Afrikanners are seldom given the benefit of the doubt. Another friend, an American this time, disagrees. Explaining that people in general, and Americans in particular, do not believe in collective guilt, he instructed me to shake off "this pifflish paranoia".

I remember trying to keep his words in mind when, a

writer Larry Bond recently explained that South Africa provides an attractive backdrop for fictional murder and mayhem because "Afrikanners make good bad guys". The Boer has earned the dubious distinction of super villain.

In 1986 I was living in New York and was asked by the CBS programme *60 Minutes* to translate a speech by

**'I was surrounded by moviegoers baying for Boer blood'**

Eugene Terre Blanche. As I grappled with Mr Terre Blanche's florid prose, the unworthy thought crossed my mind (not for longer than a second, I swear) that no one at CBS knew a word of Afrikaans. Wouldn't I be doing Afrikanners everywhere a favour if I translated creatively and made this singularly unattractive representative of the *volk* seem just a little more palatable? This was at a time when the Afrikaner needed all the help he could get — the days of P.W. Botha. His nickname was the "great crocodile", and I have it on good authority that he liked it. At least nowadays, a kinder, gentler Afrikaner sometimes appears on the evening news.

Attempts to analyse the soul of Afrikanerdom have resulted in a slew of scholarly works. Television programmes, cartoons, films and popular novels have played an even greater role in perpetuating the image of the belligerent bully. Best selling

people's reaction to my accent changing any time soon. I have lived in London for a year now and have become used to the fact that new acquaintances will invariably ask whether I am English-speaking or Boer. It is obvious that they consider English-speaking South Africans to hold more acceptable moral and ethical values.

The Afrikaner has always had an image problem. During the Boer War he was allowed to play the role of David opposite Britain's Goliath. My grandmother has a framed text of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's description of the Boer warrior on her wall. It boasts such soul-stirring words as "the (Afrikaner) must obviously be one of the most rugged, virile, unconquerable races ever seen upon earth". Ah, yes. Sadly, through his bigotry and intolerance the "modern Boer" of whom Conan Doyle was writing in 1903, had by 1948 relinquished his image of embattled hero for an image far less savoury.

What about the Afrikaner's future image? F.W. de Klerk's courage and integrity have done more for the tarnished image of the Afrikaner than any South African leader before him, including the venerable Jan Smuts. The Afrikaners have ensured, at least for now, that the words Boer and Afrikaner do not once again become synonymous with bully and racist.

Who knows, ten years from now MGM may be searching for a Vivien Leigh and a Clark Gable to star in the production of an epic romance of the South — make that South Africa. And maybe, just maybe, the hero and heroine will be Boers. Anything is possible. After all, tomorrow is another day.

NATASHA MOSTERT  
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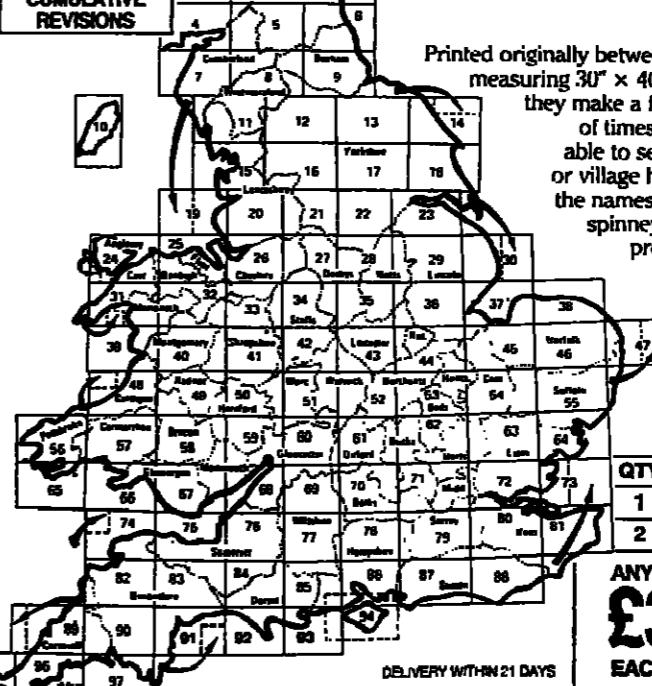
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## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Britain's charities are part of the cement that binds our society. Ruth Gledhill looks at the organisation that holds them together



Collecting can be fun: three doctors staged a Jerome K. Jerome anniversary trip, raising funds for cancer research

### Umbrella action

If the National Council for Voluntary Organisations did not exist, it would have to be invented, says Sir Geoffrey Chandler, the chairman.

The NCVO, an umbrella organisation, has made its name with its support of the voluntary sector and by representing its interests to government, the public sector, industry and commerce.

Serious research into long-term trends affecting voluntary groups, combined with internal developments, have equipped the NCVO to lead the sector towards the challenges of the next century.

Today the NCVO launches a three-year campaign to improve effectiveness and efficiency within the sector by raising £1.5 million to fund its core work.

About 170,000 charities are registered with the Charity Commission, and the number is increasing at the rate of 4,000 a year. The sector as a whole turns over an estimated £18 billion a year. Demands on charities are greater than ever, with the growing emphasis on community care and the move to a "contracting culture", where charities increasingly rely on generating their own funds by providing services.

The 1992 Charities Act, which received Royal Assent last week, brings in legislation to improve the supervision of

**Strengthened by the Charities Act, the NCVO backs up an £18bn sector**

charities by strengthening the power of the Charity Commissioners to investigate and remedy abuse. The act also relieves the Commissioners of some of their duties, enabling them to put more resources into monitoring and investigation. Judy Weleminsky,

NCVO director, says: "We see the Charities Act as ensuring that there are the right guidelines and framework for charities to operate in the future."

The act will give guidance and support to legitimate charities and make it much more difficult for illegitimate fundraisers and other organisations who might wish not to be properly accountable in what they do."

The act comes at a time when charities face increasing challenges by the day. "The voluntary sector is being asked to do more and more with fewer and fewer funds. It is also being asked to be more professional. It is no longer an



Judy Weleminsky

amateur sector. There is an enormous need for back-up," says Ms Weleminsky.

The NCVO provides this back-up. Experts handle more than 50 calls a day from the 500 member organisations and other charities requesting legal advice. With an income of more than £3.7 million, the NCVO represents the sector's interests on funding, campaigning and charity law, encourages the development of new and existing voluntary organisations and publishes a wide range of reports, guides, briefing papers and newsletters. Ms Weleminsky, who raised the profile of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship to unprecedented public prominence as its director from 1986-90, has been involved in local and national voluntary organisations for 20 years. She was one of Britain's first equal opportunities officers, at Wandsworth council in the 1970s, later becoming

"All of them, because they are giving a considerable amount of energy, feel they have a legitimate stake and a point of view which needs to be listened to. This is part of the dynamism but also part of the difficulty."

There has always been public concern about how well the money is spent, she says, or about fundraising methods. "But I think these concerns have often been overplayed."

The commitment of the 23 million people who do some voluntary work each year is often underestimated, she believes. "Most people who work in the sector are paid considerably less than they would be in business and commerce, and yet they give a great deal of energy and commitment."

**T**he Charities for Change campaign, launched today from Kensington Palace, is a £1.5 million fundraising and awareness drive to "promote efficiency and effectiveness in the voluntary sector".

The NCVO receives some government funding, but is dependent also on support and sponsorship from individuals, charitable trusts, industry and commerce.

During the campaign, companies will be urged to put their names to a project, publication or series of conferences. Donations from individuals and companies are also being sought through the Gift Aid or covenant schemes.

The campaign will include research and training into the fundraising opportunities and challenges of a single European market, funding for environmental groups, research into the needs of local communities and the unemployed and management and marketing programmes.

Sir Geoffrey Chandler, NCVO chairman, believes a flourishing voluntary sector is "the mark of a humane and civilised society". John Major, in his address to the Charities Aid Foundation last November, said the sector had reached such a scale and diversity that it had become "part of the very fabric of the whole nation".

Sir Geoffrey says: "The voluntary sector has grown hugely over the past ten years. It is immensely diverse and very successful in what it does." "There is a great need to create awareness of what the sector is about. It is not an alternative to the government, an alternative to the state. It is a third sector in its own right. It does things which the



Sir Geoffrey Chandler: a flourishing voluntary sector is "the mark of a humane and civilised society"

sector is so effective."

He fears the "contract culture" could increase dependence on contract funding at the expense of core funding and reduce the effectiveness of voluntary bodies.

Sir Geoffrey is committed to the sector's campaigning role. "Some problems are solved by practical measures such as providing houses. Others are solved by advocating a change of policy."

A former director of Shell Petroleum and former director general of the National Economic Development Office (NEDO), he has chaired the NCVO for more than two years. Volunteering, he says, is an essential element of the British character. "What the voluntary sector has to do is to continue to explain, to insist that it is complementary to the other sectors. It is not an alternative."

### Firmer hands on the reins

**A law passed last week should help to stamp out fraud**

for fraud by trustees, increase public confidence and make charities more accountable, although charities will need extra training and support to meet new responsibilities.

A new regime of accounting for charities is introduced by the act, giving the home secretary power to prescribe the form and content of statements of account. Charities which persistently fail to submit annual reports to the commissioners will be committing an offence.

The act increases the powers of the Charity Commissioners to deal with abuse and protect charity property. For the first time, they will be able to appoint a receiver and manager for a charity.

Much of the new legislation is based on the 1987 efficiency scrutiny by Sir Philip Woodfield, commissioned by the Home Office. But the act also includes many of the recommendations of an NCO report in 1986 called *Malpractice in Fundraising for Charity*. This called for legislation to increase the powers of the Charity Commissioners, to bring an end to bogus fundraising. The new act was considered essential for a sector which now has an estimated turnover of £17 billion and is growing daily.

The NCVO coordinated lobbying on the act as it went through parliament, and was responsible for a large number of amendments. It believes the act will reduce opportunities

### Trust CAF to take care of your gift to charity

Setting up your own trust is normally costly and time consuming. There are legal fees, the need to appoint a trustee, to gain approval from the Charity Commissioners and to submit annual accounts thereafter.

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### BT - supporting the changing world of charities

The BT Community Programme is a corporate member and major supporter of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

It is currently sponsoring the NCVO's 1992 Training for Employment conference and its management development programme.

BT's community programme covers six main areas:

- People with disabilities
- People in need
- Economic regeneration
- Education
- Environment
- Arts

For further details, please contact the Community Affairs Division, Floor B3, BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ. Telephone 071-356 6678.



### NEIGHBOURHOOD ENERGY ACTION

Neighbourhood Energy Action (NEA) is the national energy efficiency charity which is working to provide a permanent solution to fuel poverty through energy efficiency.

**NEA wishes every success to NCVO and its 'Charities for Change' campaign**

NEA was established as a service of NCVO in 1981. For further information about the work of NEA contact: 2/4 Bigg Market, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1UW. Tel (091) 261 5677.

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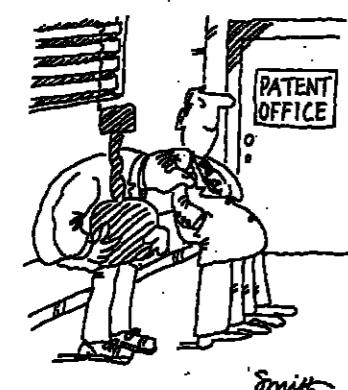
## UPDATE Once bitten

THE World Health Organisation has issued a warning that a highly drug-resistant form of malaria has emerged in Cambodia. It is resistant to mefloquine, developed in the mid 1980s. Hiroshi Nakajima, the WHO director-general, said that 370,000 refugees due to return to Cambodia from Thailand in the next few weeks under United Nations supervision, were at risk. "If Cambodia cannot get enough drugs, there may be a tragedy," he said.

### Civilised find

AUSTRALIAN archaeologists have uncovered a 4,500-year-old fortress in the sands of Arabia at Tell Abraq, north of Dubai, covering 10 acres and once home to more than 1,000 people, which proves that early civilisation was more widespread than thought. "This is the largest settlement yet discovered, and looks to be the best preserved," Professor Daniel Potts of Sydney university said.

**Leap and bound**  
AN American inventor, John Dick, has demonstrated a set of artificial legs that enable the wearer to bound across the countryside in huge leaps. The SpringWalker is strapped to the



back, and feet are put in shoes attached to spring-loaded metal feet. Body weight compresses the spring, which uncoils and propels the wearer along. A powered version, not yet available, might allow users "to go loping around like an all-terrain vehicle", Mr Dick says.

### Smoked out

ROBERT Bonner, the US Drug Enforcement Agency administrator, has refused a petition to change marijuana's classification under the Controlled Substances Act in spite of claims that it alleviates the suffering of patients with cancer, glaucoma, and Aids. The drug's claimed medicinal qualities were false, dangerous and cruel, he said.

### Tumour hope

SINGAPORE researchers have pioneered a treatment that may become an effective weapon against cancer tumours, a senior government scientist has said. Y.H. Tan of the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology said that MHC, a gene missing in the cancer cells of laboratory mice, had been inserted into cells and re-injected into the animals, killing the tumours. "We don't know exactly how it works, but it alerts the immune system to kill the cancer cells," he said.

### Dried up

THE collapse of the Soviet Union has meant a crisis in the gathering of ocean data, Unesco says. Soviet research ships once provided more than a third of the data for the Integrated Global Ocean Services System, a network for gathering oceanographic information. The main shortfall now is data on salinity, vital for following currents and ocean stratification.

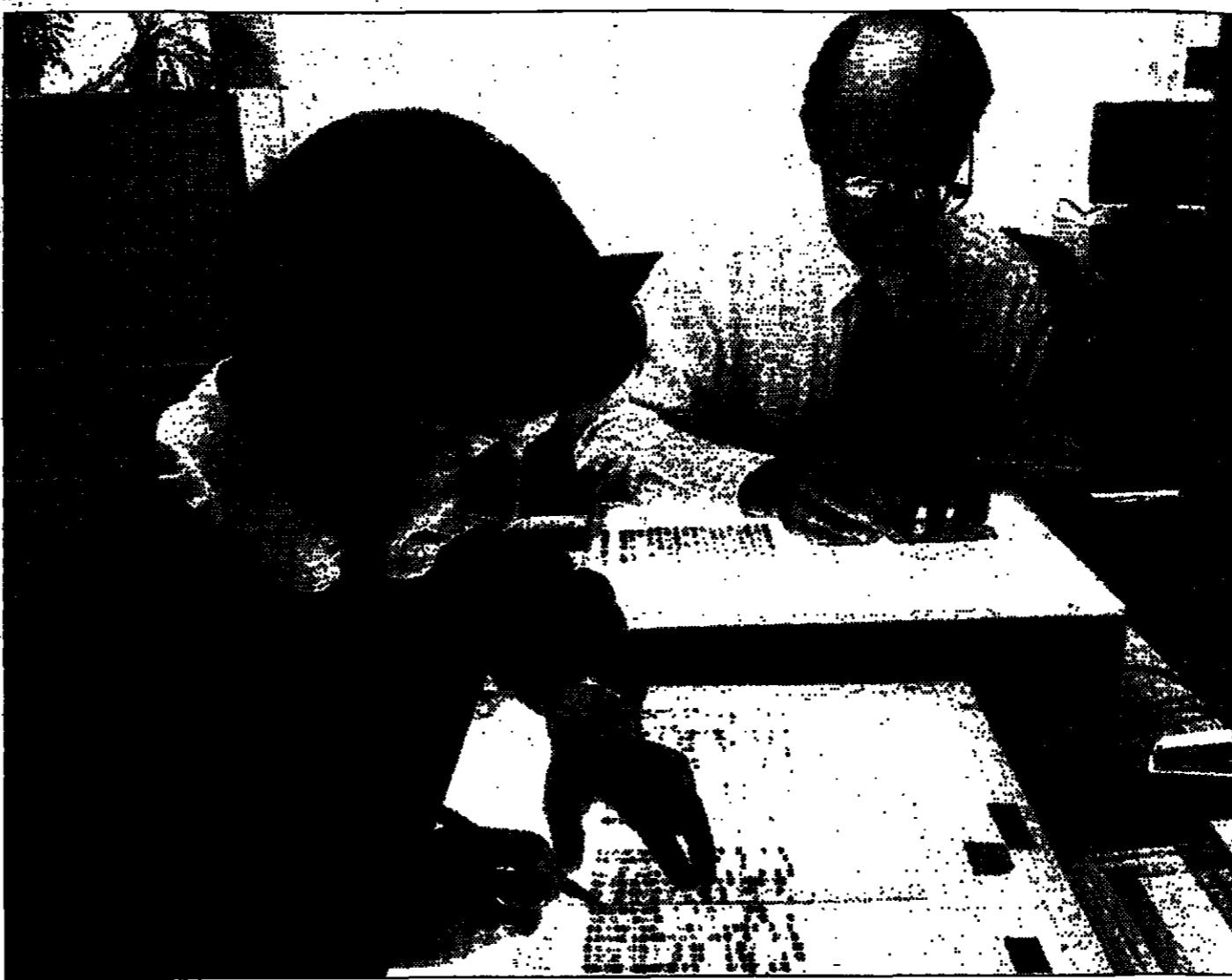
### Research gift

RESEARCH to develop a blood test for tuberculosis, which still kills 3 million people a year, will start at the Regional Department of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine at Manchester's Monsall Hospital. It is funded by the British Lung Foundation with a gift of more than £2,000 from the Allen & Hanburys pharmaceutical company.

A British team plans to investigate a phenomenon that controls carbon dioxide in the oceans

# What happened to white heat?

Nigel Hawkes  
reports on why  
science looms  
small on the  
election manifestos  
of Britain's  
main parties



DNA fingerprinting: a British idea that was successfully commercialised, but how many others have failed?

In the next five years, science and technology could bring us gene therapy, superconducting machines, cheap solar cells and an answer to the riddle of global warming. From the fundamental particles of matter to the global circulation of the oceans, new theories and fresh understanding are promised. And, of course, there will be surprises, unexpected discoveries that will help shape the world of the next millennium.

Few hints of this are found in the manifestos of the three political parties, published last week. Gone are the days when the Labour party sought to inspire by evoking the white heat of technology, as in 1964; last week's manifesto devotes just one paragraph to science, which reads in full: "Labour's minister for science will develop a national strategy to promote high-quality science and technology, so that Britain can better anticipate and respond to the challenges of the future. Exciting, eh?"

The Conservative manifesto hardly sets the blood racing, either. We read: "British science has an unrivalled reputation for ground-breaking research. We believe in investing in scientific research because it enriches the quality of our lives and provides the feedstock of industrial innovation."

Nor are the Liberal Democrats much bolder. They promise to increase the government science budget to 0.35 per cent of GDP, and raise it steadily thereafter, but they can afford to promise money which they know they are unlikely to be called upon to find.

After a decade in which budgets have been tight, many scientists will warm to the Liberal Democrat pledge, however unlikely it is to be met. Younger scientists may be more attracted by Labour's promise

to tackle the career problems that are growing acute in many laboratories. (This promise does not appear in the manifesto, but is made clear in a useful summary of all three parties' positions in the spring issue of *Science and Public Affairs*.) In *The Times* yesterday, 19 leading scientists nailed their colours to Labour's mast, deplored what they describe as the "draining of optimism from the scientific community" and evoked the years before 1979 as a lost golden age.

With unhappy timing, the manifesto arrived at a moment when an initiative dating from that era was collapsing. Innos, the semiconductor company set up by a

Labour government in 1978 and inventor of the transputer microprocessor — the "computer on a chip" — was announced that it planned to stop producing the device in its plant in Newport, south Wales.

The transputer is one of Britain's few successful semiconductor inventions in recent years. Recently it won the endorsement of IBM, which decided to use the device in the control mechanism of its computers. But Innos, now owned by SGS-Thomson, the French firm, says that it does not make sense to spend the £50 million or so that is needed to upgrade the Newport plant for volume production.

The transputer saga epitomises British hamfistedness in dealing with advanced technology. Set up and financed by Labour, it was shunned by the Tories, and sold off first to Thorn-EMI, and then to SGS-Thomson. As a result, a successful device created in Britain will be commercialised by a French company and made in Roussel, southern France.

What do the parties propose to change this throwing away of inventive talent? Curiously, they all have exactly the same answer, and it is German. With an uncanny similarity of phrasing, they endorse an identical concept for speeding the flow of new ideas from universities into industry.

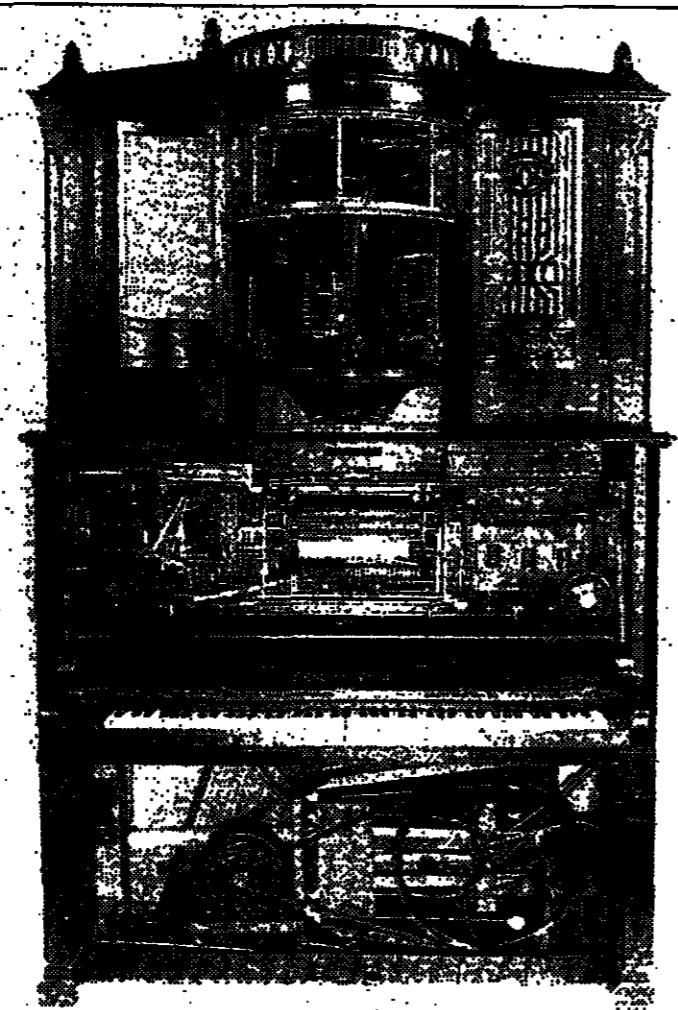
This unanimity is a feather in the cap of the Centre for Exploitation of Science and Technology (Cest) and of the Prince of Wales's Working Group on Innovation. The idea envisages universities, polytechnics, local government and industry as trying to develop plans for making the best of their local expertise, perhaps even competing for a City of Innovation award, along the same lines as the European City of Culture scheme run by the European Commission. This would possibly recapture some of the vigour shown by Victorian city fathers in promoting their regions.

The agreement over Faraday centres, even if all three parties call them different things, may be evidence that old divisions over technology policy are narrowing. The Innos saga is unlikely to be repeated in quite the same form in the future — though no one who has watched Britain's erratic progress in the past believes that creating a new set of institutions will be enough to transform it.

The cultural attitudes that underlie British failure are too deep-seated for easy change. As Sir Christopher Cockerell, the inventor of the hovercraft, puts it, the reason why so many British products do not sell is because they are not good enough; and the reason for this is that manufacturing industry can neither attract nor hold the country's best brains. An election will not change this; what is needed is a cultural revolution.

## High notes on a pianola roll

A pre-war musical mechanical wonder is enjoying a remarkable renaissance



A statement of its elegant case: the Hupfeld Phonolit-Violina

Towering over the sleek black shapes of the latest electronic organs at the Frankfurt Music Fair, the Hupfeld Phonolit-Violina in its polished wood case stalked its claim to being one of the most remarkable mechanical music machines of the 20th century. The Phonolit-Violina consists of three violins and a piano, powered by bellows and controlled by a pianola-style roll. The violins are orchestral ones, but each instrument's strings are tuned to a single pitch, D, A and E.

A series of hydraulic tubes operates pads that recreate the finger movements of a human player while a circular bow, which must be given plenty of resin, circulates over the violins as each is pushed into the playing position by instructions transmitted by the paper music roll.

Nobody knows how many of the 1925 instruments were built originally, as most of them were destroyed during the second world war, and there are now only about 70 left. Siegfried Wendel, owner of the Mechanisches Musikkabinett museum just outside Frankfurt, was determined to have one for his collection.

Unfortunately, he had only the bottom half of an original instrument with the engine and piano keyboard, while the late Frank Holland had the top half, which included the three violins, in his Musical Museum in Bradford. Neither man was prepared

to sell, so the reproduction instrument was built by dismantling the two halves and copying the individual components.

The first reproduction instrument, completed last December, took nearly ten years to build. Three have so far been sold to collectors in Japan and two have gone to the United States at \$164,000 (£96,500) each. Mr Wendel is now in Japan, hoping to increase sales in the home of the modern electronic organ.

The Phonolit-Violina, in a magnificent cabinet of contrasting woods and veneers, stands about 8ft high in sharp relief to the electronic wizardry of the latest electronic organs from Japan that are not much bigger than a piano. The Electron from Yamaha, for example, can reproduce 151 instruments from a violin to a flute using digital recordings of the real instruments, 66 different rhythms and 115 percussion sounds, all of which can be programmed through computer discs. These can also provide extra sounds and effects to be used by the player while he or she plays the double manual keyboard.

The Electron is expected to cost about £30,000, and Yamaha hopes to sell about 3,000 worldwide. These new sounds are all a long way from the gentle drawing room sounds of the Phonolit-Violina and its pianola roll.

DAVID TYTLER

The re-publication of a series of books that take a highly original approach to the popularisation of science takes place this week.

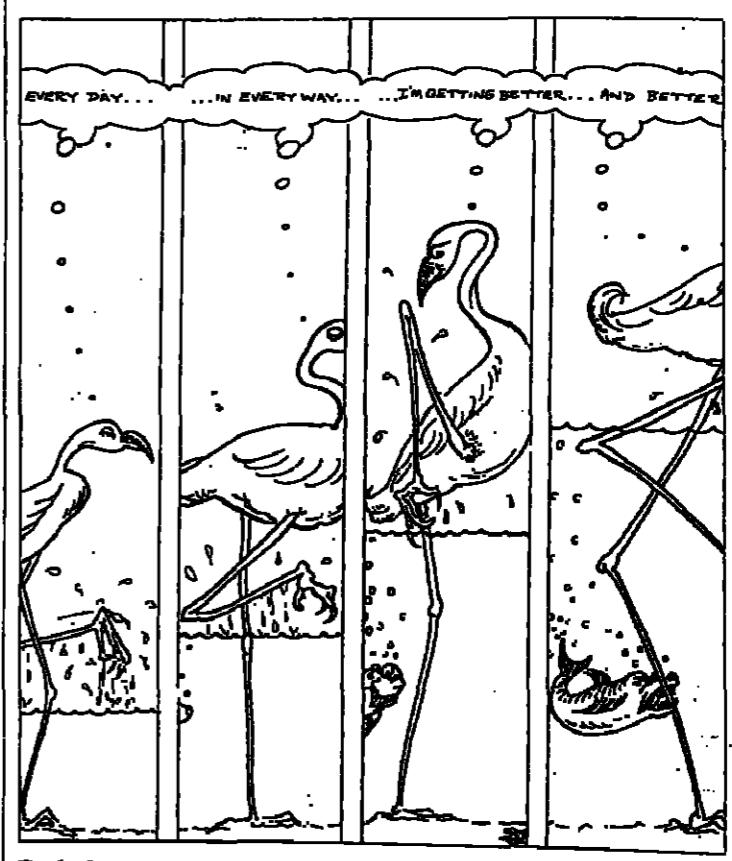
Fans of the comic-book style pioneered in the late 1970s by Richard Appignanesi and the Writers and Readers Co-operative will be delighted to see classics such as *Freud for Beginners* and *Einstein for Beginners* back on the bookshelves. On Thursday those two titles, plus *Darwin for Beginners* and *Ecology for Beginners*, will be launched under the imprint of a new company, Icon Books.

These four titles have been unavailable since 1986, when the co-operative went into receivership, but by then they had proved the charms of a serious text married to often hilarious graphics. They were translated into 12 languages and had worldwide sales of more than a million copies.

The charm of the books is undiminished. The have the vigorous, jokes, and occasional vulgarities of a comic strip, but tell a serious story. "The books aim to simplify ideas, but they don't patronise our readers," Mr Appignanesi says. "They are rooted in the liberal British tradition of self-education and robust Hogarthian illustration."

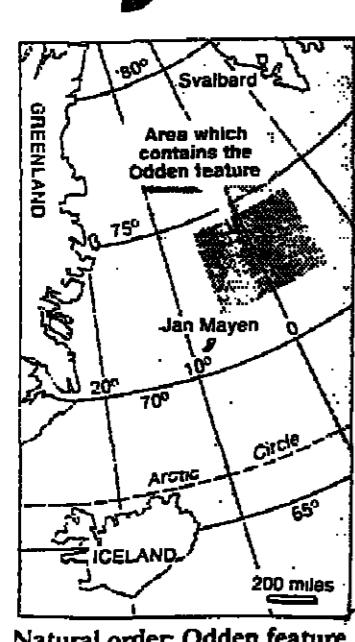
Who buys them? All kinds of

N. H.



Evolution easily explained: an extract from *Darwin for Beginners*

## Icy tongue to lick global warming?



Natural order: Odden feature

British scientists are to launch an expedition to the Greenland Sea to study a vast, tongue-shaped sheet of ice called the Odden feature.

The tongue, a 300km square sheet of rapidly growing and shrinking ice that forms from the normal ice edge in eastern Greenland, is believed to be crucial in ordering the climate and could be one of the most important natural events helping to prevent global warming. The project is part of the Winter Greenland Sea project.

Research indicates that the feature plays a role in transporting large quantities of carbon dioxide, the gas linked with global warming, from the surface of the seas to the ocean floor, where it becomes trapped.

Scientists suspect that, over a two to three-month period in the

winter, the rapid melting and freezing of the Odden feature leaves high concentrations of salt in the surface sea layers.

This then makes the surface sea water denser than the layers underneath, causing it to sink to the ocean floor in plumes or channels of about a kilometre wide, and carrying carbon dioxide with it.

The autonomous underwater vehicle, developed by Marconi Underwater Systems with some backing from the trade and industry department under its Wealth From The Oceans initiative, is capable of operating unaided for 300km in icy waters. The company adapted torpedo and defence electronics to develop the 6 metre-long vehicle.

The device, bristling with sonar scanners and sensors able to gather information on sea tem-

peratures, waterborne chemicals and marine life forms, will be used to measure the thickness of the Odden feature.

The research has presented the Marconi team with enormous technical challenges. For example, the vehicle and its instruments, when launched from a support ship, must be able to withstand air temperatures as low as minus 40 deg C before plunging into the Arctic waters.

Andy Tonge, project leader at Marconi in Waterlooville, Hampshire, said the company hoped to begin testing the robot in a flooded quarry in the Somerset hills in three weeks' time. These trials will be followed by tests throughout the spring and summer off Weymouth and Aberdeen before the Arctic mission.

NICK NUTTALL

Whether helping young people to avoid the HIV virus or putting up anti-smoking posters, health educators are always busy, says **Bernardine Coverley**

## Putting health on everyone's map

**A**s the waiting lists for surgery capture the headlines, health education, or health promotion, has come into its own. Well publicised reports such as heart disease in urban male Scots, and earlier findings about children's tooth decay, have highlighted links between diet and health. The popularity of exercise as good health practice is another example of public response, with a fast growing industry of fitness studios. The World Health Organisation's push to improve health significantly by the year 2000 is also adding impetus.

However, it is in advertising that health education is designed to have most impact. At the Islington health promotion office of Bloomsbury & Islington District Health Authority, Athena Daniels' cosy office is decorated with many fine examples. "Alcohol, no thanks I'm pregnant" and "The worst dope in town" speak for themselves while "It doesn't have to be hell" encourages sensible diet and exercise.

Ms Daniels is health promotion manager and her brief covers women's and children's health. The emphasis, she says, is no longer just on teaching. "Now the key word is enabling. We make people aware of the effects of lifestyle and environment and get them involved in staying healthy." The health promotion department includes several HIV advisers, a project worker and a senior officer responsible for initiatives on smoking, drinking and diet.

They work with schools, community groups and health centres and run courses for nurses, teachers and home helpers who are often on the frontline of changes in healthcare. Home helpers who are generally accustomed to the elderly, benefit from training on the needs of young, disabled people who are now encouraged to be as independent as possible.

Even the most intransigently unhealthy person can be reached. It is a measure of the change of attitude towards health that No Smoking Day is no longer an annoying campaign by a small group of activists, largely ignored and quickly forgotten. Since the

success of the no-smoking areas in trains, buses, public places and offices each publicity day gains more attention and the reasons behind it more acceptance.

Information from the Health Education Authority and charities like the Meningitis Trust is circulated through the Department of Health authorities. "We keep a catalogue of leaflets, videos and books and encourage borrowing by health centres and any local groups," says Ms Daniels.

Since the days of Florence Nightingale health education, like nursing, has attracted women. This is changing with the broadening scope of health work and it is often a second career after experience in social sciences, teaching or community work, with many more men in evidence. Jobs within the field reflect the usefulness of these backgrounds: drug abuse; women and HIV prevention; the health problems of low-income families.

Michael Collins finds his teaching experience in Dublin and England invaluable in his present job for Rugby NHS Trust. He is



Gina Warrilow advises drug abusers in north London: "It can be very stressful but it's not all crisis."

responsible for training and education in HIV prevention for young people and describes his work as "pro-active". As sole worker in his particular niche everything he initiates puts into practice in addition to administering the budget.

Rugby is a market town with eight secondary schools, youth centres, a further education college and a youth custody centre on the borders with Coventry. As adviser he works with teachers on

how to bring up the subject of HIV prevention, and why.

"Since education is all we have to prevent the spread of the virus I have to convince people. It's not presented as a topic in isolation but as part of people's lives and relationships. I bring in being assertive because peer pressure is very strong and moralising has to be avoided."

He deals with these complex problems by running courses for teachers, devising teaching mate-

rials and arranging TIE workshops and student discussions.

● Details on Diploma and MSc in Health Education, full or part time. Dept of Health & Community Studies, Leeds Polytechnic, Leeds LS1 3HE. Diploma & MSc in Health Education, staged full time over 1-3 years. Dept of Community Health & Nursing Studies, South Bank Polytechnic, Borough Road, London SE1 4AA. Further information on careers and courses from the Health Education Authority, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9TJ.

SOME individuals find health services less accessible than others and the Angel Project in North London, a voluntary organisation for drug users, tries to tackle the problem. "I get asked questions like 'Is it true I can get a heart attack and die if I take Ecstasy?' or 'I've been using heroin for five years how can I stop?'" says Gina Warrilow, aged 30, one of the advice workers.

She is available to drug users, friends and relations at drop-in sessions or on the helpline, and advises on safer practices in terms of HIV and Aids like using the needle exchange service.

An important part of the work is communication. "I'm here to be responsive. It's possible to point out what is actually dangerous and what is detrimental to their general health. If someone is not eating properly, for example, I can suggest liquid supplements."

Miss Warrilow has a Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW) and a Diploma in Health Studies. The next obvious step is management but she prefers the direct approach. "It can be very stressful but it's not all crisis. I'll always push paper aside for the human response. I like people."

071-481 4481

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-481 9313  
071-782 7828

### Team Manager

Salary: Grade G £16,100 - £22,400

Young Adolescent Resource Centre, Chatham

The Young Adolescent Resource Centre is a key component in the Medway/Swale area's overall strategy for responding to the needs of young people and their families, based on a flexible and integrated use of services, with the emphasis on support in the community and avoiding the need for the ongoing provision of care.

We require an energetic and imaginative Team Manager to help us to build a quality service using the facilities at this new unit. Duties will include the professional guidance and supervision of staff, and the overall responsibility for the development and use of the resources of the unit, which has a residential and day care capability. A close working relationship with the area homefinding team is crucial to the success of this venture.

The successful applicant will have first-class management potential, the ability to motivate staff, maintain high professional standards, and manage the resources of the unit effectively.

The General Management Team can offer:

- A positive, performance driven management culture,
- excellent working environments,
- commitment to regular supervision, training and professional development,
- subsidised lease car and relocation package (where appropriate).

Applicants for the above post should be professionally qualified and experienced in the field of therapeutic work with young people (CQSW, CSS etc).

Evidence of managerial and supervisory skills will also be required.

For informal discussion/enquiries, please contact Bob Gower, Assistant General Manager on Medway (0634) 881251.

For job description and application form, returnable by 3 April 1992, contact Mrs Margaret Seabrook, Medway/Swale Area Office, Compass Centre, Chatham, Kent ME4 4YH. Telephone: Medway (0634) 881287 (24 hours). Please quote reference number 07324.



Kent County Council is an equal opportunity employer.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE MAGDALENE COLLEGE

#### DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Magdalene College Cambridge invites applications for the important and challenging full-time appointment of Development Director, to take office from 1 October 1992. A successful record of fund-raising and expertise in development procedures is essential. The salary for this non-pensionable office will be up to £35,000 p.a. The person appointed will have the privileges associated with a Fellowship. Applications must be sent to the Bursar, Magdalene College, Cambridge, CB3 OAG not later than 17 April 1992, together with a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees. The College is an equal opportunities employer.

### Planning Solicitor

PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS SECTION

Salary up to £27,045 + lease car

We have an ideal opportunity if you are keen to develop your career and experience in the area of Planning Law.

As a Solicitor with a team dealing with both Planning and Highways work, you will primarily specialise in planning, and access to the countryside matters, including inquiries, appeals and agreements.

You should be keen to learn, committed to quality service and standards and although previous Planning or Local Government experience would be desirable, if you are a recently qualified solicitor with some negotiation and advocacy skills and looking for a challenging environment, we could offer you the ideal career move.

In addition to the salary and lease car, there is a generous relocation package including 100% repayment of removal and legal costs and the possibility of temporary housing if needed.

For further details please telephone Eileen Saunders (0243) 777182 or write to the County Secretary, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ.

Closing date: 6th April 1992.  
(C0241)



west sussex

### PARKING COMMITTEE for LONDON

#### LONDON PARKING DIRECTOR c.£47,000

You will be a highly motivated and committed individual able to take overall responsibility for the work of the Committee and to develop concepts and initiatives into working practices. You will advise on issues affecting the operation and administration of parking enforcement matters in London as they affect the Committee's functions and deal with government departments, local authorities, police authorities, the media and other bodies at a senior level.

Educated to degree or equivalent standard, you will be an experienced senior manager with good financial and human resource management skills. You will possess effective leadership and communication skills enabling you to achieve demanding targets. A practical understanding of information technology will be expected as will a basic understanding of local government.

#### CHIEF ADJUDICATOR c.£40,000

An adjudication service will be established to deal with appeals against the penalty charges which will be issued by the London local authorities.

The Chief Adjudicator will take on the important and challenging task of devising, implementing and managing a fair and efficient appeal system for aggrieved motorists, and will help to recruit and train a team of adjudicators.

You must have a 5-year qualification as a practising barrister or solicitor. You must possess the skills to devise a complex administrative system, be able to lead a team embarking on its implementation and have excellent communication skills. A practical understanding of information technology will be expected.

For an information pack and application form write to THE PARKING COMMITTEE for LONDON, 36 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JF. Closing date for completed applications is Friday 17 April 1992.

### DIRECTOR DESIGNATE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

#### Regent St, London W1

to £20,000

The Director of Anzac, an Area Advisory Group to the DTI who is also the Director of the Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea Chambers of Commerce, plans to retire in a year and a Director Designate is now being sought.

As the successful candidate, you will probably be in your late 40's or early 50's and will be looking for a second career where financial reward is not the prime motivation. It is essential that you possess commercial experience at a senior level and have a good knowledge of Australia and New Zealand, as you will be responsible for developing trade and investment in both directions • outward and inward mission in conjunction with the DTI.

Another important aspect of your responsibilities will be • developing and implementing all aspects of special events, including seminars, lunches, receptions, and roadshows and organising venues • developing sponsorship and innovation of programme concepts • co-ordinating all areas of membership growth and development.

Key personal qualities will therefore need to include: sound organisational and administrative skills, strong written and verbal communication and presentation attributes, as well as having an understanding of setting budgets and managing accounts. You should live within easy commuting distance of London, as there will be evening events to attend. Limited overseas travel will also be required. Please write with full Curriculum Vitae plus current passport photo with a covering letter detailing the 'added value' that you can bring to this appointment to: R Wellesley, ABCC (UK), Suite 615, 162-168 Regent Street, London W1R 5TB.

### FISHERY SCIENTISTS

#### TWO POSTS

£12,129 - £19,328

(subject to experience and qualifications)

Napier Polytechnic in association with the SOAFD Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen.

Candidates will work in the field of fish stock assessment which supports scientific advice on the exploitation of fish stocks and the development of fishery management policy. The posts are available for three years from 1 April 1992 and are based at the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The successful candidates will apply existing models and develop new approaches to understand the dynamics of mixed species fisheries and the interaction between fish stocks. The work offers an interesting mix of problems arising in European Fisheries and those of developing countries, particularly Ecuador.

Candidates should have a good honours degree in a biological or mathematical discipline with at least two years' postgraduate experience in some aspect of fisheries science or the modelling of animal populations. Knowledge of statistical methods, computer simulations, tropical fisheries or Spanish would be advantageous.

Application forms and further particulars are available from the Head of Personnel Services, Napier Polytechnic, 219 Colinton Road, Edinburgh EH14 1DJ. Telephone 031-455 4288. Closing date: 10 April 1992.

NAPIER POLYTECHNIC OF EDINBURGH

### ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON



### London Zoo Chief Executive.

The Zoological Society of London, which runs zoos at Regent's Park and Whipsnade and the Institute of Zoology, is seeking a Chief Executive for London Zoo. The Zoo is at an exciting stage of its long history and offers a challenging opportunity for the right candidate. The Zoo has wide responsibilities in animal conservation, husbandry and welfare, breeding endangered species and the advancement and dissemination of zoological knowledge.

Applicants should have a proven record of management at a senior level and first class administrative experience. Leadership ability will be essential and a broad and practical knowledge of visitor orientated management is desirable.

Please reply with a full CV, the names of three referees and current salary to Sir Barry Cross CBE FRS, The Secretary, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, by 16 April 1992.

part of your  
job is just  
important  
to a person  
with a mental  
handicap

WES



## BBC 1

**6.00** Ceefax (36540) 6.30 Breakfast News (57414366)  
**8.05** Election Cell presented by Jonathan Dimbleby. This morning viewers and listeners are invited to put their general election questions to the Labour party's health spokesman Robin Cook. To participate ring 071-798 5000. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (1268163).

**10.00** News, regional news and weather (6502673) 10.05 Playdays. For the very young (s) (6005288) 10.25 Paddington Bear. Animation (r) (8503960) 10.35 Gibberish. Celebrity word game (908592).  
**11.00** News, regional news and weather (4747927) 11.05 Help Yourself. Pam Rhodes discovers how counselling can help to alleviate tensions within families and households, and looks at the importance of talking therapies for young people (3655453).

**11.30** People Today presented by Miriam Stoppard and Adrian Mills. Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (4971365).  
**12.20** Pebble Mill. The guests are Loraine Chase, Anna Karen, who played Olive in *On the Buses*, and, with a song, Marc Almond (s) (2191095) 12.55 Regional News and weather (60723279).

**1.00** Nine O'Clock News and weather (20434).  
**1.30** Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (2732219) 1.50 Turnabout. Word power quiz game. The question-master is Rob Curling (2372255).  
**2.15** Film: Two Years Before the Mast (1946, b/w) starring Alan Ladd and Brian Donlevy. Punchy 19th century seafaring drama about a young writer who is shanghaied and made to sail round Cape Horn. His experiences under the sadistic Captain Thompson leads him to mutiny and to the US Congress passing legislation guaranteeing the rights of sailors on the high seas. Directed by John Farrow (780434).

**3.50** Joshua Jones. Animation (6022311) 4.05 The New Yogi Bear Show (n) (4472540) 4.10 Jackanory. Sandi Toksvig with part one of *Delish* and *The Dogspal* by Jenny Nimmo (s) (5530618) 4.25 Fantastic Max (r) (4450328) 4.35 The Really Wild Roadshow. Children's wildlife series (7121714). (Ceefax) (s).

**5.00** Newsworld (3391502) 5.10 Maid Marian and Her Merry Men. Episode three of the six-part comedy written by and starring Tony Robinson (r). (Ceefax) (2327873).

**5.35** Neighbours. (r). (Ceefax) (s) (365778).  
**6.00** Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (Ceefax) Weather (347).

**6.30** Regional News Magazines (927).  
**7.00** Holiday. Reports on a strenuous holiday on New Zealand's South Island, a weekend break in Belgium and a working holiday in Shropshire. (Ceefax) (s) (3459).

**7.30** Rembrandt. (Ceefax) (s) (611).

**8.00** Just Good Friends. John Sullivan's on/off romantic comedy starring Paul Nicholas and Jan Francis (r). (Ceefax) (2521).

**8.30** A Question of Sport. John Parrott takes over as one of the captains. He is joined by Jeremy Guscott and Alfie McCoist. On Bill Beaumont's side are Stephen Hendry and Steve Backley (8326).  
**9.00** Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (543993).

**9.50** Party Election Broadcast by the Labour party (187415).

**10.00** Rides. Last in Carole Hayman's lively drama series about an all-woman minibab company. (Ceefax) (s) (151809).

**10.50** Film 92 with Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed are *High Heels and Freckles*. In addition Michael Douglas discusses his new film *Basic Instinct* (s) (565231).



1990s private detectives: Josh Brolin, Michael Woods (11.20pm)

**11.20** Private Eye. A feature-length introduction to a new private detective series set in 1950s Los Angeles. Michael Woods stars as a former policeman who inherits his dead brother's detective agency and its rock'n'roll-loving junior partner (Josh Brolin) (592365).  
**12.00** The Hustlers (4336125).  
**1.00** Weather (5466106). Ends at 1.05.  
**2.00** The Way Ahead. The tenth of 12 programmes explaining April's new benefits for the disabled (6317689). Ends at 2.15.

## SATELLITE

## SKY NEWS

**SKY ONE**  
 © Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 8.00am The DJ Kel Show (8010163) 8.40 Mr Pepperpot (5070161) 8.55 Payback (2626619) 9.10 Corrie (1574929) 9.30 The New Look (s) (2021161) 10.00 The Magic Box (2626620) 10.15 The Domes (65124) 11.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (65618) 11.30 The Young and the Restless (45182) 12.30 Barnaby Jones (47768) 1.30 The Tracy Brothers (2626624) 2.30 Santa Barbara (5446126) 2.45 Weather (543993) 3.15 The Kat Show (811057) 3.45 The Big Bunch (7322879) 5.00 Different Stories (2779) 7.00 The 100 Club (2626625) 7.00 London Tonight (27705) 7.00 Love at First Sight (3415) 7.30 Baby Talk (3699) 8.00 Film: We are the Children. Starring Aly Shedy and Ted Donaldson (84698) 10.00 Sticks (26463) 10.30 The Weather Channel (2626623) 11.30 Story (27251) 12.00 Monarchs (52545) 12.30pm Pages from SkyNet.

**SKY MOVIES+**  
 © Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00 Showbiz (37745).  
**10.00** None But the Brave (1965) (49163).  
**12.00** The Good Iron (Marie (1986)). A Greek immigrant who becomes a gangster (53848).  
**1.30** Five Little Monsters (22319) 5.30 Newsweek (531614) 5.50 Memories (22319) 6.30 Newsweek (531614).

**SKY NEWS+**  
 © Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00 Showbiz (37745).  
**10.00** None But the Brave (1965) (49163).  
**12.00** The Good Iron (Marie (1986)). A Greek immigrant who becomes a gangster (53848).  
**1.30** Five Little Monsters (22319) 5.30 Newsweek (531614) 5.50 Memories (22319) 6.30 Newsweek (531614).

**THE MOVIE CHANNEL**  
 © Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00 Showbiz (37745).  
**12.00** The Wizard of Oz (1939). A legend of children's play (5000167).  
**6.45** Frankie and Johnny (1998). Elvis Presley stars as a vampire (542959).  
**10.20** Jazz Around the Corner (1938, b/w): The Music Man (1952).  
**12.15pm** The Black Station (1970): Equine drama (564517).  
**1.15pm** The Coal Incident (1943, b/w): When a woman about a Lynch mob is Only Mama (530363).  
**3.45pm** Three Fighters in the Land of Fantasy: China's adventure (1956).  
**6.15pm** The Search (1952). Four brothers search for their missing father (565703).  
**8.15pm** A Silent Fury (1959): Anita Morris fights for custody of her child (523314).  
**10.00pm** The Devil's Disciple (1943). A judge sets out to clear her son's name (5540027).  
**12.00pm** The Wizard of Oz (1939): A boy goes to live in Vermont (526265).  
**1.50pm** Showbiz (37745).  
**3.25pm** Link (1988): A zoology student is attacked by chimp (518468). Ends at 6.00.

**THE COMEDY CHANNEL**  
 © Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00pm Aerobics (30521).  
**9.00pm** The New Leaf (1997): A high school student contracts AIDS (65231).  
**10.40pm** Painting the Clouds with Sunshine (51529) 11.00 Super Tex (71369) 12.00 American (51529) 12.30pm Scottish League Football (65231) 1.00 World Cup (51760) 2.00 Live from the BBC (51760) 2.30 The Collector (21279) 3.00 American Pros (51760) 3.30 Cricket World Cup Final (51760) 4.00 The Footballer's Show (51760) 4.30 Cricket World Cup Final (51760) 5.00 Tennis (51760) 5.30 Grand Prix (51760) 6.00 Tennis (51760) 6.30 Grand Prix (51760) 7.00 Live Handball (51760) 7.30 Motor Sport (51760) 8.00 European Masters (51760) 8.30 European (51760) 9.00 Handball (51760) 9.30 Wrestling (11057) 10.00 Sports (51760) 10.30 Five Little Monsters (22319) 11.30 Newsweek (531614) 12.00 Monarchs (52545) 12.30pm Pages from SkyNet.

**SKY SPORTS**  
 © Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am Aerobics (30521) 7.00 Hawketon.

**RADIO 1**  
 Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 11.30 Philip's Paris Collection (4 of 8) 1.00 Robert Cushman's Songbook. An explanation of American popular and folk music by the folk singer-songwriter. Hosted by Philip's Paris. 10.00 Sunday Late 12.30pm The Jools Holland Show 12.30pm Late Jools Holland 12.30pm Last Jools Holland Dance (51125).

**RADIO 2**  
 FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Bruno Brooks (FM only) 6.00 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newswatch 14.30 Jake Brembles 15.00 The Megashow 16.00 The Royal Wedding. An appeal from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (51125). 1.00 Nelly Campbell Goes into the Night 12.00am The 10.00 Club 10.30 The Jools Holland Show 12.30pm Late Jools Holland Dance (51125).

**RADIO 3**  
 News and sport on the hour until 7.00pm. 8.00pm World Service. World News. 9.00 News about Britain: 6.15 The World Today 6.30 Johnnie Walker with The AM Alternative. 12.30pm Kitchen Cabinet. A discussion between former members of the House of Commons. 1.00 Upfront 1.30 The Square 1.45 The Square 2.00 The Square and the Sound 2.20 World Service Health 2.45 Your Health 3.00 The Square 3.25 The Square 4.00 Books 4.05 What Do Millions Believe? 4.35 Five Aside 7.15 Ballet Shoes 7.30 School Days: Prezincing: A play by Tom Holt and Steve Fallon 8.00 Popcast: 0345 909633 9.00 Matchstick 9.30 Box 13. The Dead Man Walks 10.10 Earthshot and 11.00 Sport 12.00 12.10am News. Sport 4.25 Cricket World Cup. The final from the Melbourne.

**RADIO 4**  
 All times in GMT. 4.30am World Business Report 4.40 Travel and Weather 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.30 Europe Today 5.50 Weather 6.00 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.50 News 6.55 News 6.58 News 6.59 News 6.60 News 6.61 News 6.62 News 6.63 News 6.64 News 6.65 News 6.66 News 6.67 News 6.68 News 6.69 News 6.70 News 6.71 News 6.72 News 6.73 News 6.74 News 6.75 News 6.76 News 6.77 News 6.78 News 6.79 News 6.80 News 6.81 News 6.82 News 6.83 News 6.84 News 6.85 News 6.86 News 6.87 News 6.88 News 6.89 News 6.90 News 6.91 News 6.92 News 6.93 News 6.94 News 6.95 News 6.96 News 6.97 News 6.98 News 6.99 News 6.10 News 6.11 News 6.12 News 6.13 News 6.14 News 6.15 News 6.16 News 6.17 News 6.18 News 6.19 News 6.20 News 6.21 News 6.22 News 6.23 News 6.24 News 6.25 News 6.26 News 6.27 News 6.28 News 6.29 News 6.30 News 6.31 News 6.32 News 6.33 News 6.34 News 6.35 News 6.36 News 6.37 News 6.38 News 6.39 News 6.40 News 6.41 News 6.42 News 6.43 News 6.44 News 6.45 News 6.46 News 6.47 News 6.48 News 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